

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، والرأي



Nasrallah thanks God for martyrdom of son

BEIRUT (AFP) — Hizbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said Saturday he thanked God for the "martyrdom" of his 18-year-old son, Khadi, who was killed in a clash with Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon. "He freely chose to join the special forces of the Islamic resistance. The only influence his mother and I had was that we had no objection," said Sheikh Nasrallah, 37. "Israel should not take any satisfaction from the death of my son because he fell in combat at the forefront of the battle against the occupiers," added Sheikh Nasrallah. Khadi's body was taken by Israeli soldiers and deposited at the Majayoun hospital morgue inside the self-declared Israeli "security zone" in south Lebanon. Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri has sent Sheikh Nasrallah a message of condolence over the death of his son, according to Lebanese television reports.

Volume 22 Number 6635

AMMAN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1997, JUMADA I 13, 1418

Price: Jordan 200 fils

Albright expected to press GCC not to boycott MENA conference

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrived Saturday in Saudi Arabia, the key U.S. ally in the Gulf, where she is due to hold talks with King Fahd, a U.S. diplomat said.

Ms. Albright, making her first official visit to the Middle East, was welcomed on her arrival at Jeddah airport in the west of the kingdom by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

She is due to meet both King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz and will then go to the southwestern town of Abha Sunday for discussions with the foreign ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Gulf diplomats say she is expected to press GCC members Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to take part in a regional economic conference in the Qatari capital Doha in November.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE have announced their intention to boycott the Middle East and North Africa economic conference because Israel is due to take part.

The U.S. has been seeking the support of Arab countries for the Doha conference, particularly after Saudi Arabia said it will not attend.

Asked if it would be prudent to postpone the Doha conference because of the lack of peace progress, Ms. Albright said: "The Doha conference is important in itself. It is in the interest of the region to be part of the

global economy." "The Doha conference is not a favour to anyone. It is a favour to all the people of the region. The people of the region can gain from breaking down barriers," she said.

Her talks with Saudi officials are also expected to focus on the collapsing Middle East peace process as well as bilateral ties, which have been rattled by two anti-U.S. bombings in the kingdom over the past two years.

Ms. Albright arrived in the region on Wednesday on a mission to save the Israeli-Palestinian peace process but left Israel on Friday saying there was still a long way to go.

She is due to leave Saudi Arabia on Sunday for Jordan and will return to the United States on Monday.

Earlier on Saturday, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he saw "encouraging" signs in efforts by Ms. Madeleine Albright's to revive Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, despite her own comments that there is still a long way to go.

"What she has achieved was not expected... It is encouraging and gives hope to future trips," Mr. Mubarak told a joint news conference with Ms. Albright after more than two hours of talks.

He said the Palestinians mistakenly had great expectations before Ms. Albright launched her maiden trip to the Middle East, which coincides with the four-year anniversary of the signing of the Oslo peace accord on Sept. 13, 1993.

"The Palestinians are in

their most difficult situation. They were very upset and they had high hopes for this visit. We did not have high hopes but we expected the gate to be opened," Mr. Mubarak said.

"I think that after the meeting to be held in Washington, the situation will be much easier to proceed forward with the peace process," Mr. Mubarak said.

He was referring to Ms. Albright's announcement Friday, wrapping up her visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories, that Israeli and Palestinian officials would resume discussions this month in Washington.

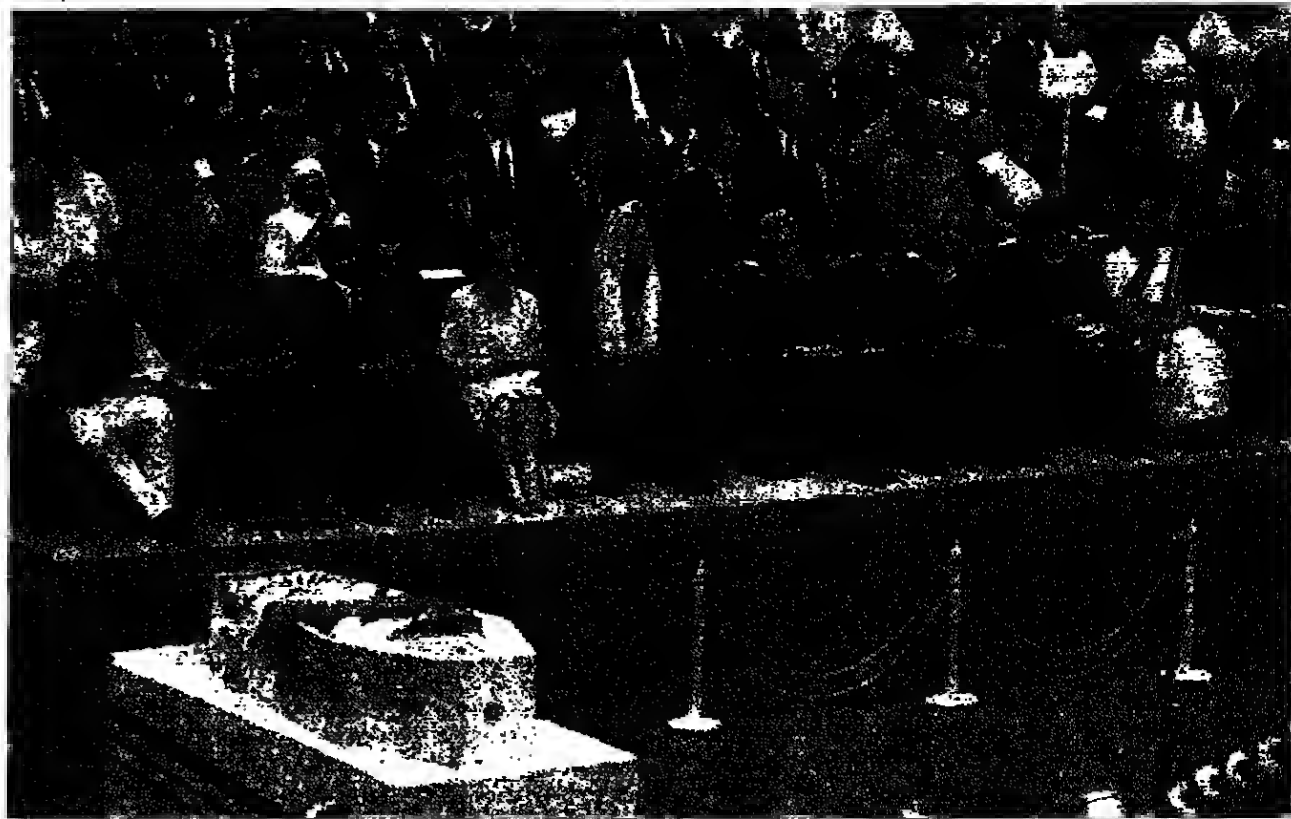
However she said "big steps" were still necessary.

"The United States cannot

(Continued on page 7)



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak shakes hands with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright at the Ras Al Teen Palace in Alexandria Saturday. Mr. Mubarak said that Ms. Albright's visit was encouraging and there were signs that the Middle East peace process could move forward (Reuters photo)



QUEEN NOOR BIDS FAREWELL TO MOTHER TERESA: Indian and foreign dignitaries listen to a sermon during the funeral service for Mother Teresa whose body can be seen in the foreground Saturday. They are from left: Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and wife Shiela, President Jerry Rawlings of Ghana, Queen Fabiola of Belgium, Her Majesty Queen Noor, Bernadette Chirac, wife of the French President, Hillary Clinton, wife of the U.S. President, Aline Chretien, wife of Canadian Prime Minister, Sonia Gandhi, Italian born widow of assassinated Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Britain's Duchess of Kent (Reuters photo)

Millions of mourners bid farewell to Mother Teresa

CALCUTTA (AFP) — Almost a million mourners, including scores of world leaders, bade farewell to Mother Teresa on her final journey through the rain-drenched streets of Calcutta Saturday as India held a state funeral for the "Saint of the Gutter."

Pope John Paul II, in a message read at the mass by his envoy Cardinal Angelo Sodano, said: "Mother Teresa lit a flame of love. It is up to us to keep it burning."

But the poorest of the

poor, left bereft by the death of the diminutive Catholic missionary who died Sept. 5 aged 87 complained they had been sidelined in the ceremonies.

A day of high public emotion climaxed when Mother Teresa was buried quietly by her order in a private ceremony in the Spartan side-alley Mother House, where she lived.

Gurkha soldiers outside fired a 32-round rifle salute and four red-turbaned military buglers sounded the last post after receiving a

signal that the burial was over.

The almost day-long state funeral was marked by military pomp, an outpouring of affection and inter-religious harmony.

Police said close to one million people watched as Mother Teresa's body, in an open coffin, was borne slowly from St Thomas' Church to the Netaji Stadium where the world's VIPs paid homage.

Mother Teresa's gnarled hands were clasped around a wooden rosary, her trade-

mark blue-edged white sari half covered with the Indian tricolour flag.

"Mother you loved us and suffered with us," read a huge banner carried by students behind the cortege.

An Indian military escort, in red turbans, rode to open jeeps before the guo carriage on the five-kilometre journey to the sports stadium where world leaders waited to pay tribute at the funeral mass.

The crowd of hundreds of

(Continued on page 12)

Israel bars Islam's Athan in Hebron for 'Sabbath'

HEBRON (AFP) — The Israeli army barred Islamic clergy in the West Bank town of Hebron from making the daily call to prayer on Saturday so as not to disturb the Sabbath of Jewish settlers.

Officials said. Fawzi Khathib, the prayer leader at the Cave of the Patriarch, Hebron's main holy site sacred to Muslims and Jews, said the army would not allow him to make the call to prayer by loud-speaker Saturday at dawn.

"I was told that I could not disturb the settlers on Sabbath because it is sacred. As if the call to [Muslim] prayer is not sacred," Mr. Khathib told the Palestinian news

agency WAFA. The Palestinian National Authority lodged a formal complaint on the matter to Israeli authorities, said the head of religious affairs in Hebron, Salah Nassheh.

"This is a bad precedent. They have never done this before," he said.

Meanwhile, Jewish settlers attempted to force their way into a religious affairs ministry office in Hebron, located near one of their enclaves, a Palestinian security official said.

Employees in the office became embroiled in shouting matches and arguments with the settlers, who were then forced to leave by Israeli

soldiers, said the official, a Palestinian member of the security liaison with the Israeli army.

In Jewish tradition, Saturday is a day of complete rest when the faithful perform no work and devote the day to studying religious texts.

Because of Sabbath, Israeli officials could not be reached to confirm either incident.

Some 400 Jewish settlers live in Hebron's Old City, meters away from the Tomb of the Patriarch, where both a mosque and synagogue are located, among 11,000 Palestinians in the fifth of Hebron still under Israeli army control.

Israel tries to raise stakes in Lebanon with military attack

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel, smarting from a military fiasco in Lebanon last week, raised the stakes with a deadly raid against Lebanese troops and warned Saturday that it will not hesitate to attack again if provoked.

"[The Israeli army] does not want to attack Lebanese forces regularly but it has done so and it will do so in the future each time they open fire and put Israeli soldiers in peril," an Israeli army spokesman said.

Six Lebanese soldiers and a civilian woman were killed when Israeli helicopter gunships attacked army positions with air-to-ground missiles near the southern port of Sidon late Friday, a Lebanese military source said.

It was the heaviest death toll suffered by the Lebanese army since it deployed on

the edge of the self-declared "security zone" occupied by Israeli forces in south Lebanon in 1985 to protect Israel's northern border from attacks.

Israel also claimed to have killed at least four Hizbollah guerrillas in clashes late Friday with its elite Golani unit on the edge of the buffer zone, which sparked the air raid.

Israel, which said it suffered no casualties despite reports Friday from its allied militia that four soldiers were injured, hopes the attack will help boost morale after 12 elite Israeli marine commandos died a week ago in a bungled raid near Sidon.

According to recent press reports, Israeli officials believe the army cannot remain on the defensive and leave the military initiative with the guerrillas, even if offensive opera-

tions risk escalating the conflict in south Lebanon.

Already this year, 31 Israeli soldiers have been killed in south Lebanon, its highest toll since the partial occupation of Lebanon in 1983, firing debate in the country about its continued involvement.

An opinion poll carried out in Israel shortly after the disastrous commando raid on September 5 found that 52 per cent of those queried favoured a unilateral pullout from Lebanon, while 34 per cent were opposed and 14 per cent undecided.

"The Israeli forces took back several bodies of Hizbollah fighters and also recovered a substantial quantity of explosives and arms," the spokesman said, adding that Israel had planned the attack against Hizbollah.

Mutawi hails Albright efforts; says she will inaugurate 'humanitarian' project

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will arrive here Sunday where she will brief His Majesty King Hussein on the outcome of her meetings with Palestinian, Israeli and Syrian leaders, a government spokesman said.

Speaking to reporters following the Cabinet's weekly session, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi said the American envoy succeeded in achieving a breakthrough during her shuttle between Israel and the Palestinian

self-rule areas.

"Personally, I am comfortable," said Dr. Mutawi, "I think we have to admit that there are some positive signs that have come out from (her) talks," the minister said, referring to Ms. Albright's talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

"Ms. Albright's positive statements made it clear that she had a very comprehensive perspective on the way that would revive the peace process," the minister added.

Dr. Mutawi added that the success of Ms. Albright was obvious in convincing the

Palestinian and Israeli negotiators to meet next week in Washington as a step forward to resume the peace talks, adding that "these efforts would give impetus to the peace process."

Following Ms. Albright's separate meetings with Mr. Arafat and the Israeli premier, the two sides agreed to send their senior negotiators to Washington in a bid to restart peace talks, stalled following the two multiple suicide bombings in west Jerusalem.

The two sides also agreed

(Continued on page 7)

Ensour urges weeklies to adjust to law

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister for Services and Minister of Administrative Development Abdullah Ensour Saturday urged the editors of the weekly newspapers to speed up the process of adjusting to the requirements of the Press and Publications Law.

Dr. Ensour said the weeklies must do so within the time limit called for by the law that was issued as a temporary legislation in May. Dr. Ensour noted that some of the weeklies have

displayed seriousness and commitment to that law and its provisions.

Speaking at the meeting held at the minister's office, the 12 editors present raised a number of issues of concern and complained about certain articles in the amendments to the Press and Publications Law such as the increase of the paper's capital to JD300,000, and conditions and requirements for the appointment of editors, and demanded that the gov-

ernment reach a compromise with the weeklies and that more dialogue with the government be held over this issue.

The editors submitted to Dr. Ensour a written memorandum addressed to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali in which they called for the Press and Publications Department (PPD) to rescind its recent measures

(Continued on page 7)

Zeroual to visit Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual will pay a three-day visit to the Kingdom as of Monday, Sept. 15, according to a communique issued by the Royal Court. The Algerian president's visit is in response to an invitation extended to him by His Majesty King Hussein. Mr. Zeroual, left Saturday for a rare foreign visit, heading for Damascus where he is due to stay until Monday, officials said. He is scheduled to hold talks with his Syrian counterpart Hafez Assad before travelling on to Amman.

Germany to help create EU mechanism to provide additional aid to Jordan — Kinkel

BONN (Petra) — Germany will do all it can to help create a mechanism at the European Union (EU) to provide additional economic aid to Jordan, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Saturday.

The German minister made the statement in Bonn in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, in which he dealt with the current situation in the Middle East and Europe's assistance to the countries of the region.

He said the German government believes that the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East can only be realised through the active involvement of all concerned states — including Syria and Lebanon — in working out a comprehensive settlement.

Germany and the EU have been in constant contact with Syria through the EU's special envoy Miguel Moratinos whose efforts are complementing those of the U.S. in the

peace-making process, Mr. Kinkel said.

Expressing the view that the Middle East is currently facing a difficult crisis, Mr. Kinkel said that despite the complex situation, there is no alternative to peace and understanding among the nations of the region. "It is important for the parties to the conflict to resume negotiations to prevent further tension," he added.

"We have to urge the concerned parties to resume the negotiations

and never to abandon the prospect of peaceful coexistence among the nations of the region," said Mr. Kinkel, who added that his country was following up closely on the outcome of Mr. Moratinos' contacts with the countries of the region.

He said Germany has a duty to call on the different parties to follow the course of moderation and help the process of confidence building "because we want the concerned parties to realise that the right path

towards a settlement comes through understanding each other's views."

"We adhere to a wise and honest policy of never concealing the facts from any friend and we tend to point out our views whenever we find that a friend's behaviour is harming the legitimate rights of others and in this regard we have repeatedly pointed out to Israel that its settlement programmes in the Palestinian lands are regarded as a violation of international law," Mr. Kinkel noted.



INSPECTING DAMAGE: Lebanese soldiers inspect the damage to a national armoured vehicle destroyed during an Israeli raid overnight Friday, at the army post of Arab Salem. Seven Lebanese soldiers and a woman were killed and seven other troops wounded during the raid. Earlier several pro-Iranian Hizbollah guerrillas were killed and four Israeli soldiers wounded in a clash on the edge of the "security zone" occupied by Israel in South Lebanon (Reuters photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Netanyahu like Hitler, Saddam'

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Kuwaiti newspaper on Saturday compared Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his hardline policies to Adolf Hitler and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. "It is unfortunate that some states are saddled with fanatic leaders of Adolf Hitler's and Saddam Hussein's ilk who devastate and destroy their own societies and countries," the English-language Arab Times said. "Netanyahu is certainly one such leader," the newspaper said in a front page editorial also carried by its Arabic sister paper Al Seyassah. "While his policies will not only damage the Middle East, catastrophic implications are on the cards for the Israeli economy which is already battered by his policies," it said. The paper said the Israeli premier was "wedded to the path of terrorism and obsessed by extremist ideologies that can only lead the region to war."

Sudanese MPs to be stripped of seats

KHARTOUM (AFP) — At least 10 members of the Sudanese parliament are to be stripped of their seats, with by-elections to be organised to fill the vacancies, the media reported here Saturday. The official Al Anbaa daily, quoting Parliamentary Secretary General Jalal Mohammad Ahmad, said the parliament would announce the stripping of membership from the MPs next week and would ask the electoral commission to organise by-elections in their constituencies. It said three deputies would lose their membership of parliament due to excessive absenteeism, one of these because he had left the country to work in a Gulf state, and a fourth because he faced an unspecified criminal charge. Six others deputies will have their membership removed as they were elected as state governors last month.

Bahrain arrests 5 suspects in arson attack

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain has detained five suspects accused of setting a private car ablaze and causing damage to another earlier this month, local news papers reported Saturday. Quoting an interior ministry statement, they named the five suspects as Jaafar Mohammad, Ali Ahmad, Sayed Hassan Ahmad, Abbas Ahmad and Mohammad Ali. They said the five men were arrested in Buri village, 16 kilometres southwest the capital Manama where the incident took place. More than 30 people have been killed since sporadic attacks and bombings broke out in December 1994 by members of Bahrain's majority Shiite Muslim community to press for economic and political reforms. Hundreds have been arrested.

Qatar foreign minister in Tehran for talks

TEHRAN (R) — Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jaber Al Thani is in Tehran to discuss expanding ties between the two Gulf states, the official IRNA news agency reported Saturday. The agency quoted Sheikh Hamad, who it said arrived Friday, as saying that Qatar's relations with the Islamic Republic were "clear and solid." Sheikh Hamad is the second highest ranking Gulf Arab official to visit Tehran after a landslide victory of Mohammad Khatami, a moderate cleric, in last May's presidential election. An envoy of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd made a rare visit to Iran in July.

Kingdom to witness total eclipse of the moon Tuesday

By Nadia Mulkilis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom will witness a total lunar eclipse on Tuesday, Sept. 16, according to Enad Mujahid, an observer at the National Centre for Weather Forecast.

The eclipse will begin at 20:10 p.m. local time, when the full moon will be covered by the shadow of the earth that will start to crawl from the eastern side of the moon surface to cover it completely by 21:16 p.m., Mr. Mujahid explained.

The eclipse will last until 22:19 p.m. when the moon will start to go out of the eastern section from the earth's shadow, he continued.

The full eclipse, which will last for one hour and three minutes, will end at 23:26

p.m. when the moon will again start reflecting the sun's rays, he said. The moon will rise in Amman's skies at 18:34 p.m. and will set at 5:39 p.m. the next morning.

The different phases of the eclipse will in addition be witnessed in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Mediterranean region and the eastern parts of the Atlantic, specialists at the centre said.

According to Mr. Mujahid, the moon usually appears with a deep red colour after the total eclipse as a consequence of the reflection of the infrared rays from the spectrum which penetrate the earth's atmosphere.

The infrared wave is the longest in the spectrum and can penetrate the earth's gaseous cover and be reflected on the moon's surface to

be observed by people on earth, he said.

"However, if the moon appears black this would indicate the presence of pollution in the cover, which is usually the effect of factory fumes, carbon monoxide and active volcanoes," Mr. Mujahid explained.

The last time the moon appeared black was on Dec. 9, 1992 due to emissions by the Bonotova volcano in the Philippines. Another incidence was in 1991 as a result of the burning oil fields in Kuwait during and after the Gulf war, Mr. Mujahid said.

In the last couple of months, the earth witnessed three big volcano eruptions, therefore this eclipse might help to know if the earth's atmosphere is polluted, Mr. Mujahid concluded.

Gunman shoots preacher in Algerian mosque

PARIS (R) — A lone gunman shot dead a leading figure of the Algerian Islamist Al Nahdha Party as he read from the Koran in a mosque in Constantine, Algerian newspapers said Saturday.

Abdeljalil Bourouis, Imam (prayer leader) in the Al Kefi Mosque in the eastern city, was killed by a single bullet in his head, fired by a young masked gunman who burst in during mass Friday prayers. Liberte newspaper

said.

It said Bourouis, 37, a founder-member of Abdullah Djaballah's Al Nahdha Party, had stood unsuccessfully for election in the June 5 parliamentary elections. He was planning to be a candidate in local elections to be held next month.

His killer held worshippers briefly at gunpoint before fleeing with accomplices waiting in a car outside.

L'Authentique newspaper

said security forces since late Friday had been besieging a group of "terrorists" — Algerian officials' term for armed Islamist rebels — in Ouled Al Hadj Mosque between Charba and Eucalyptus in Algiers.

A helicopter was circling over the mosque and security forces had used loudspeakers to urge the rebels to surrender. Their only response had been bursts of automatic gunfire, the news-

paper said.

Earlier Friday, in the same area, security forces had shot dead seven rebels.

Algeria has been shaken by violence since early in January 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which the now-outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had taken a huge lead.

The FIS long used mosques as local headquarters to build up support.

Saddam lifts ban on Iranian expatriates visiting Shiite shrines

BAGHDAD (AP) — President Saddam Hussein has instructed his government to lift a ban against Iranians who live abroad visiting Islamic holy shrines in Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Saturday.

The move came after Iran disregarded a decision last month by Iraq to allow pilgrims from Iran to pay homage to the Shiite Muslim shrines, saying that the two governments should work out a bilateral agreement first.

Shiites are a minority in most of the Arab World, where Sunni Muslims predominate. However, Shiites are the majority in Iran, and the most important Shiite shrines are in neighbouring Iraq.

The INA said President Saddam ordered the ministry of interior to allow all Iranian

passport holders who live outside Iran to visit the holy shrines in Iraq.

A ministry spokesman said the Iranians should come in package tours arranged by an Iraqi company and each should pay \$150 for a visa.

The Iranians will only be allowed to stay for seven days and will be permitted to spend \$15 a day at the government fixed rate of 450 dinars to the dollar. The free market rate is about 1,450 dinars to the dollar.

President Saddam's decision seems designed to embarrass Iran, which had described his earlier invitation to Iranians to visit the shrines as "hypocrisy and sham."

In 1980s, the two countries fought a devastating war that left nearly one million people either killed or wounded.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards commander to enter politics

TEHRAN (AFP) — The former commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards who stepped down this week said Saturday that he may get involved in political and cultural activities against the West.

General Mohsen Rezaei told the official IRNA news agency that he had wanted for three years to "engage in non-military and cultural activities: whether it is to help the new government or even teach in a university."

"My work was done in the Guards Corps. I felt that the force had reached maturity and there are no major security problems," he said. "Iran now has an effective role in the security of the region and we expect that the Americans will sooner or later leave the Gulf. Iran's role is instrumental in this."

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the commander-in-chief of Iran's Armed Forces, on Tuesday transferred the general to a

post in the newly-expanded Expediency Council, an advisory body. He was relieved of his duties as the head of the force after 16 years, and replaced by his deputy, Brigadier General Yahya-Rahim Safavi.

Gen. Rezaei said his concerns were "more on the cultural front, where there is a serious threat and much work needs to be done." "The anti-revolutionary culture has spread in Iran these days," he warned.

"We must line up against the whole Western culture with our Islamic civilisation — a confrontation which the West is definitely afraid of," the general said.

However, he called for the West to be challenged only through "cultural" means.

Gen. Rezaei's resignation from the guards, known as Sepah Pasdaran, came a little over a month after the inauguration of Mohammad Khatami, a moderate cleric, as president.

JORDAN TELEVISION

TEL 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

- 14:10 Little Rosey
- 14:30 The Magic School Bus
- 15:00 Energy Express
- 15:40 Lucky Luke
- 16:00 American Chart Show
- 17:00 French Programmes
- 19:00 News in French
- 19:30 News Headlines
- 19:35 Fresh Prince of Belair
- 20:00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
- 20:30 National Geographic
- 21:10 Renegade
- 22:00 News in English
- 22:30 One West Walkiki
- 23:15 Sisters
- 23:59 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

- 04:55 Fajr
- 06:14 (Sunrise) Duha
- 12:31 Dhuhur
- 16:03 Asr
- 18:49 Maghreb
- 20:07 'Isha

CHURCHES

- St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeth, Tel. 810740
- Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
- St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
- Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
- De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
- Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

St. Ann International Church Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 834328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Moderate warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures becoming above average by three degrees centigrade and winds light to variable occasionally becoming northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be warm, winds northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. Amman.....17/33

Aqaba.....24/39

Deserts.....16/36

Jordan Valley.....24/39

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 30, Aqaba 35 Humidity

readings: Amman 41 per cent,

Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Wafiq Qadumi.....893542

Dr. Nasser Ibrahim.....830432

Dr. Bahjat Bader.....832642

Dr. Yahya Abdul Rahim.....736072

Firas pharmacy.....661912

Ferdows pharmacy.....637630

Al Asena pharmacy.....637055

Naioukh pharmacy.....623672

Al Salam pharmacy.....636730

Yacoub pharmacy.....644945

Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660

Najib pharmacy.....847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu.....281484

Al Quds pharmacy.....(—)

Civil Defence Department.....661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....630341

Civil Defence Emergency.....199

Rescue Police.....192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade.....617101

Blood Bank.....775121

Highway Police.....843402

Traffic Police.....896390

Public Security Dept.....630321

Hotel Complaints.....605800

Price Complaints.....661176

Water & Sewage Complaints.....897467

Amman Municipality Complaints.....787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121

Overseas Calls.....010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs.....623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101

Radio Jordan.....773111

Jordan Television.....774111

Water Authority.....680100

J. Electricity Authority.....815615

Electric Power Co.....636381

RJ Flight Information.....08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

Malhas, J. Amman.....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani.....607071

Shmeisani Hospital.....669131

University Hospital.....845845

Al-Muasher Hospital.....6672279

The Islamic, Abdali.....66612637

Al-Ahli, Abdali.....6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen.....777101/3

Al-Bashir.....775111/26

Army, Marka.....891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital.....60224050

Amal Hospital.....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery.....865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital.....(09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital.....(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital.....(09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital.....(09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital.....(02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital.....(02)272275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital.....(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital.....(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (52700)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

09:30 Jeddah (RJ)

10:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)

10:05 Bombay (RJ)

10:15 Lamaca (RJ)

10:20 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:25 Beirut (RJ)

10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

17:05 Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)

17:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:05 Paris (RJ)

18:50 London (RJ)

19:10 Athens (RJ)

19:10 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

20:40 Rome (RJ)

20:40 Vienna (RJ)

22:30 Frankfurt, Paris (RJ)

02:55 Doha (add) (RJ)

02:55 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights

09:30 Al Arish (PF)

12:00 Sanaa (TY)

12:00 Jeddah (SV)

13:25 Bahrain (GF)

15:20 Moscow (SU)

21:10 Beirut (ME)

21:35 Cairo (MS)

23:20 Istanbul (TK)

00:59 Cairo (MS)

02:15 London (BA)

07:20 London (BA)

07:20 Tel Aviv (LY)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:00 Madrid (RJ)

06:45 Beirut (RJ)

07:00 Lamaca (RJ)

10:25 Frankfurt (RJ)

12:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

12:15 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)

12:15 Vienna (RJ)

12:30 Rome (RJ)

12:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

13:20 Athens (RJ)

Queen Noor attends Mother Teresa's funeral, praising 'Saint of the Gutters'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday joined mourners gathered around the world in Calcutta to pay homage to Mother Teresa, "The Saint of the Gutters," according to a press release.

The funeral, which was attended by over 15,000 people, including foreign dignitaries, was characterised by its multifarious tributes to a woman who had cared for the unwanted and shunned burdens to society. One of her most famous sayings was that "the world today is hungry not only for bread but hungry for love, hungry to be wanted, to be loved," the statement continued.

Queen Noor said Mother Teresa's selfless life and work were an example to people of all faiths of her compassion and her charity, transcending race and religion. The Queen paid tribute to her humanitarian work, particularly in Jordan, where she founded two homes "Dar Al Salaam" (Home of Peace), which cares for the mentally and

physically disabled, the dying, and elderly who have been rejected by their families or are alone in the world, and "Dar Al Mahabbah" (Home of Love), which tends to severely disabled children under the age of 12, the announcement said.

According to Sister Julia, who is in charge of Dar Al Salaam, the homes provide shelter, food, and all the medical assistance they can for more than 100 people. Sister Julia added that "we help anyone who comes to us in need regardless of their nationality or religious beliefs." They depend solely on charitable donations and have been supported by a relatively small proportion of the community despite their unique multifarious dimension; people in their care need food, supplies and money to cover water, electricity and heating bills, according to the statement.

Mother Teresa visited Jordan three times, in 1970, 1974, and in November 1980, when she met with Their Majesties King Hus-

sein and Queen Noor and received Al Istiklal medal from King Hussein, the Kingdom's highest decoration. Her twelve sisters in Jordan are from India, Italy, Slovakia, Ethiopia, and the Philippines and are currently training a Jordanian and a Lebanese sister, the statement said.

The sisters recalled how Mother Teresa used to ask them to pray for the King and Queen who "help us in many ways and who selflessly work for the welfare of their people and for peace in the Middle East." In addition to Jordan, Mother Teresa's sisters work in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Yemen, Tunisia, Turkey, and Sudan, the statement read.

Mother Teresa was born in Albania in 1910. She trained in Dublin and Darjeeling, India, before taking her religious vows in 1937. While serving as the principal of a high school in Calcutta, she was moved by the presence of the sick and dying on the city streets and decided to found the Mis-

sionaries of Charity, the statement continued.

There, Mother Teresa and her followers collected the dying from the streets so that they may spend their final days in peace and comfort among friends. Their work expanded to include lepers, victims of AIDS, battered woman and drug addicts. Mother Teresa used to tell her sisters "If a Muslim or a Hindu comes to our home, let him leave as a real Muslim or Hindu," according to the release.

Mother Teresa attracted novices from throughout the world and today, the sisters number more than 4,500 and 550 centres in 125 countries. She received many awards, including India's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna (The Jewel of India), and the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, the press release stated.

After the funeral service, Queen Noor returned to Amman accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain and Sister Julia, the statement concluded.

Tourist industry in south does not measure up — ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — A large number of restaurants, rest houses, and hotels in southern Jordan fall short of the minimum acceptable levels of service for local and foreign visitors, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Secretary General Akram Masarweh announced Saturday.

Following a four-day tour of the tourist sites near the ancient Nabatean city of Petra and other areas, Mr. Masarweh said the low level of standards and lack of quality services offered to visitors harm the tourism industry.

Mr. Masarweh, who was accompanied on the tour

by several ministry officials, said he planned to submit a report detailing the current situation of tourist services to the tourism commission at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

He said he also intended to recommend that the ministry control and monitor these places, and urge them to improve the quality of services and take prompt measures to rectify the situation.

The ministry will do everything in its power to enable its affiliated tourist offices to upgrade their services, particularly those in southern regions, since they contain important

archaeological and tourist sites, he added.

The goals of the tour included studying the obstacles impeding a successful tourism sector and dealing with the situation prior to the start of the upcoming winter tourism season, which is due to start by the middle of next month, he said.

The inspection group visited several archaeological sites and inspected work on a road linking Wadi Mousa with Taybeh, the only road leading to the hotels within the Petra region.

Mr. Masarweh's tour also took him to the Dana wildlife reserve, which is

cared for by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, and inspected the society's projects to transform the reserve into a tourist attraction.

Meanwhile, according to a ministry statistical bulletin Saturday, visitors to Jordan during the first seven months of the year increased by five per cent over the number of visitors in the same period last year.

A total of 643,000 people visited Jordan during the first seven months of 1997, bringing in JD265 million in revenues, compared to 612,000 tourists and JD255 million in the first seven months of 1996.

U.S. President Clinton receives new Jordanian Ambassador Muasher

WASHINGTON (USIS) — In accepting the credentials of Marwan Jamil Muasher, newly appointed ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United States, President Bill Clinton extended his "personal best wishes to His Majesty King Hussein and to the people of Jordan," noting that "We share a common strategy for regional peace and cooperation; we share a common vision of regional development and prosperity."



Dr. Marwan Jamil Muasher

President Clinton reiterated the commitment of the U.S. "to stand with Jordan as it undertakes difficult economic reforms and stays the course for peace and for regional stability."

The president praised the ambassador's "familiarity with our institutions," and his "close relationship with members of this administration, and (his) understanding and appreciation for the Congress," which, he said, "will be an asset for both our countries."

In the Sept. 8 ceremonies at the White House, President Clinton described Dr. Muasher as "an articulate and forceful spokesperson for his country" with a "long and distinguished" public service career in Jordan. "You have shown an undying, personal commitment to the peace process, taking an active, prominent, and continuous role since the 1991 Madrid conference and serving with distinction as Jordan's first ambassador to Israel," the president said.

In his remarks, Ambassador Muasher commended President Clinton's "personal commitment and the role of the United States in leading the efforts to bring about a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. Your leadership has been instrumental in achieving monumental results since the process was launched in 1991," he said.

"We assure you that Jordan will continue to work with your administration to overcome the present challenges and help take the peace process to its only logical conclusion — successful peace agreements on all tracks."

Dr. Muasher thanked the president for the increased level of aid to Jordan, saying, "As we make this difficult transition from the present state of affairs to one where we can flourish on our own, your decision to increase aid levels to Jordan is essential in supporting our model, further deepening our reform programmes, and making the transition period shorter and more tolerable. Jordanians are deeply appreciative of this effort."

Following are President Clinton's remarks and the statement by Ambassador Muasher:

Mr. Ambassador,

ingly dynamic and multifaceted. We have witnessed growing collaboration on a number of fronts as we actively pursue practical means of expanding trade and investment opportunities with Jordan, exemplified by the "Open Skies" civil aviation agreement concluded in October 1996 and more recently by the Bilateral Investment Treaty signed by our countries on July 2.

Our shared goal is to shape Jordan's economic future so that the blessings and material benefits of peace will become available to every Jordanian citizen and, indeed, to all the peoples of the region.

Security cooperation remains a critical component of our relationship.

Jordan has been a stalwart partner with an important role to play in a region of strategic importance to U.S. interests. King Hussein has proven a trusted ally on so many occasions, exemplified by the April 1996 deployment of the Air Expeditionary Force in Jordan. That is why last November I designated Jordan a Major Non-NATO Ally of the United States. This designation underscores the strength of our commitment to Jordan as it works to maintain peace and stability in the region.

We must continue to work together to advance the peace process and thus heal the painful wounds of the region and reconcile the children of Abraham.

We have a shared interest in a stable, unified Iraq governed by leaders who respect human rights and international law, an Iraq at peace with its neighbours and its own people. And I would like to reiterate our commitment to stand with Jordan as it undertakes difficult economic reforms and stays the course for peace and for regional stability.

Mr. Ambassador, you are assuming your post at a time when U.S. support for Jordan is not only steadfast, but bipartisan. Your familiarity with our institutions, your close relationship with members of this administration, and your understanding and appreciation for the Congress will be an asset for both our countries. Many in Washington and throughout the United States know you as an articulate and forceful spokesperson for your country. Your public service career in Jordan is long and distinguished. You have shown an undying, personal commitment to the peace process, taking an active, prominent and continuous role since the 1991 Madrid conference and serving with distinction as Jordan's first ambassador to Israel. May your time here in Washington be enjoyable. Congratulations, and again, please accept my warmest welcome.

As we make this difficult transition from the present state of affairs to one where we can flourish on our own, your decision to increase aid levels to Jordan is essential in supporting our model, further deepening our reform programmes, and making the transition period shorter and more tolerable. Jordanians are deeply appreciative of this effort.

Mr. President, I seek your attention and advice and your government's assistance in my strive to strengthen the bonds of our friendship and the position of our mutual interests.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Minister files complaint against writers association for 'unlicensed' activities

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A recent row between Minister of Culture Qasim Abu Ein and president of the Jordan Writers Association Fakhri Qa'war over the association's involvement in political activities has taken a dramatic turn recently.

According to the daily newspaper Al Arab Al Yawm, Mr. Abu Ein has presented a formal complaint to the minister of interior accusing the writers association of inviting "unlicensed" organisations to hold seminars on its premises.

The minister had earlier

warned the association against including political activities in its agenda.

In one of the letters sent to the association, Mr. Abu Ein said the writers union should "confine itself to purely cultural activities (instead of) indulging in acts of political, sectarian, or tribal nature."

But the minister's demands and complaints were brushed aside by the association's two-time president, Mr. Qa'war, ardently opposed to normalisation of relations with Israel, saw in the minister's demands "a return to the martial law era."

Mr. Qa'war harshly criticised what he said was the

minister's "superlative tone" and "unjustified attitude," and said the minister had no right to "preach and lecture" the association as long as it conformed to the law of the land.

The minister, however, sent another letter expressing astonishment at what he termed the association's negative attitude on restricting itself to cultural activities.

"It was surprising to see that you (Mr. Qa'war) are insisting on ignoring the provisions of the law in favour of your personal beliefs," the minister said in his second letter.

Mr. Qa'war retorted strongly, refusing what he

termed the minister's threats.

"The minister's definition of the term culture is scholastic. Culture is a comprehensive humanitarian concept that includes literature, art, science, economy, and politics. It is surprising how the minister confuses what is cultural and what is legal," Mr. Qa'war was quoted by Al Arab Al Yawm as saying.

"The ministry should have better things to do than write letters," Mr. Qa'war added.

The minister is currently involved in a confrontation with another prominent anti-normalisation writer.

Opposition group rejects members' resignations, asks for retractions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Shura Council of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party has reportedly rejected the resignation of six of the party's executive council members and called on the resignees to retract their decisions until at least the end of the council's mandate, which ends in December, according to an IAF statement quoted by Al Arab Al Yawm daily Saturday.

The six resignees are Party Secretary General Isiah Furhan, Mohammad Aweida, Abdullah Akaleh, Bassam Emoush, Hamzeh Mansour, and Mousa Abu Hantash.

According to the report, the decision to reject the resignations came during a meeting attended by 77 of the 120 members of the Shura Council.

Only two of the resignees,

Mr. Aweida and Mr. Abu Hantash, were in attendance.

The resignations were submitted in July to the council's president Adnan Majali, who at that time said the move did not signify a split within the front and dismissed the prospect of the resignees forming a new Islamic party.

The resignations were reportedly submitted to the council in protest against its decision to boycott the Nov. 4 elections.

The council, which convenes semi-annual sessions, is scheduled to hold its next meeting in December, when the two-year mandate of the executive committee will expire and internal elections are to be held for a new leadership.

The IAF, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, was

the most successful party in the last parliamentary elections, held in 1993, capturing one-fifth of the seats of the 80-member Lower House.

But the party failed to block parliamentary approval of Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel, and pulled out of the upcoming elections in protest to what it said has been a steady erosion of parliamentary authority under successive governments.

Meanwhile, Fayez Rabie, a former ambassador and founding member of the IAF who is running in the general elections, was reported Saturday in Al Dustour daily as saying he was looking forward to the creation of the nucleus of an Islamic-oriented bloc in Parliament.

He said the new bloc will comprise a number of notable

Islamic personalities from the IAF, who are being contacted to present their views about the project, and added that the new bloc will seek reforms and political interaction with other factions.

On the prospects of his dismissal from the IAF because he is not committed to boycotting the elections, Mr. Rabie said dismissal can be effected only in two cases, according to the party's statutes: if the member requests to be relieved of his membership, or in the case of death.

The Shura Council of IAF decided on July 18 to boycott the November elections following the example of the Muslim Brotherhood. The vote was 80 votes in favour and 16 against.

Celebration of poet Nercuda to begin Monday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The embassy of Chile, in collaboration with the Cervantes Institute, has organised a homage for the poet Pablo Nercuda, according to a Chilean embassy press release Saturday.

On Sept. 15, Ambassador of Chile Jorge Iglesias will give a conference on the "Life and Work of the Poet Pablo Nercuda, Nobel Prize in Literature," at the Cervantes Institute. On the same day, the ambassador will inaugurate an exhibition called "Portraits of the Absence" for

the famous Chilean photographer Louis Poirat showing some passages of the life of Mr. Nercuda, the statement continued.

On Sept. 17, a film will be screened about Mr. Nercuda's home "Isla Negra," the poet's last home, related by the Chilean poet Raul Zurita, the press release read.

This memorial will be carried out as part of the "Cultural Week of Chile," celebrated by the embassy of Chile on the occasion of its national day. Sept. 18, the statement concluded.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CONCERT

* Piano recital by Freddy for Music at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

CHINESE FILM FESTIVAL

* "The Opium War" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, 7:00 p.m.

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

* Seminar entitled "Painting and Graphic Art" by Iraqi artist Rifa Nasiri and Syrian artist Ziad Dalloul at 7:00 p.m.

* Graphics by Rifa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Dalloul of Syria, and Najia Mehadi at the South Hall.

* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qailoka at the Middle Hall.

* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.

Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Darleen Wilkerson entitled "Arab Madras in Batik" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until Sept. 25 (Tel. 6445551).

* Works by Ali Al Yazbiki at the Jordan Plastic Art Association, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 16.

* Fourth Pottery Exhibition by Mahmoud Sadiq and Da'ad Al Muteleh at Hamurabi Gallery, Gardens Street, until Sept. 19 (Tel. 5536098).

* Paintings exhibition entitled "La Radioactive" at French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30.

* Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream", Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesday).

Afghan opposition beats back Taliban from northern stronghold

KABUL (AFP) — Opposition forces have beaten back a Taliban militia attack on their northern stronghold amid uncertainty over their fractured alliance after the return from exile of a former warlord, independent sources said Saturday.

Aid sources said the fighting had moved back along the eastern highway to a point around 40 kilometres east of the city.

Sources confirmed that ex-Communist warlord, Abdul Rashid Dostum, had returned to the city, the seat of the opposition's shadow government, after returning from exile in Turkey where he fled three months ago when the city was besieged and briefly captured by the Taliban.

"The frontlines have been pushed back beyond the Uzbek border turnoff, and the sound of fighting can no longer be heard inside the city," a Western aid worker said.

Another source contacted in Mazar-e-Sharif — the only Afghan city not controlled by the Taliban — said rockets and shells had not hit the city for the past 24 hours, and the intense

Taliban jet raids of early Friday had ended.

"The city is almost back to normal. Gen. Dostum has been seen back and is taking control of the city with Hezb-i-Wahdat, the troops here have very good morale," commented the source.

Areas west of the city, where local pro-Taliban commanders from the fellow ethnic-Pashtun Hezb-i-Islami faction have attacked for the previous four days, were reported quiet by foreign aid workers.

Chaotic scenes gripped Mazar-e-Sharif for over four days when Taliban fighters advanced to within 15 kilometres of the city, as alliance groups turned on each other in their own power struggle leaving the city to looters.

Jumbesh Party leader Abdul Malik, who ousted Gen. Dostum in a coup in May, was himself pushed aside by the Shiite Muslim Hezb-i-Wahdat faction Tuesday.

Gen. Dostum has now reportedly assumed control of part of the divided Jumbesh-i-Milli (National Movement), while Gen.

Malik's current political status remains unclear.

A senior official of Hezb-i-Wahdat, said he was confident Gen. Dostum's arrival would not cause further internal differences.

"Dostum's arrival in town will not create any tension between our Uzbek brothers as we are sure that they know they have common enemy," said Ustad Fazel in a satellite telephone interview.

However, a Taliban official, Amir Khan Muttaqi, claimed the arrival of Gen. Dostum would lead to more turmoil within the beleaguered alliance.

"The coming of Dostum will not have any particular impact on the situation because his senior commanders have been assassinated by Malik," said Mr. Muttaqi who is also the Taliban's minister of information and culture.

In May, Gen. Malik briefly joined forces with the Taliban to oust his one-time boss Dostum who fled the country.

But Gen. Malik switched sides again back to the alliance only a few days later, seeing the Taliban expelled

from Mazar-e-Sharif amid heavy street battles.

Relations with the Shiite factions — fierce opponents of the Sunni Taliban — have been severely strained since the incident, and northern sources say Gen. Malik has conducted a bloody purge of Dostum loyalists.

Meanwhile, alliance forces loyal to ousted government strongman Ahmad Shah Masood struck the capital with a heavy rocket for the third day running, killing a ten-year-old girl and injuring two women.

The rocket, apparently aimed at the airport used by Taliban planes supplying troops near Mazar-e-Sharif, overshot the perimeter and struck a farming area. On Friday one farmer was killed and another injured in a similar incident.

Commander Masood's forces have been deadlocked in frontlines only 25 kilometres north of the capital for nearly two months.

The Taliban control two-thirds of the war-ravaged country including the capital Kabul, and have enforced a strict interpretation of Islamic law on areas under their control.



Former Massachusetts Governor William Weld talks to colleagues after a meeting by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the topic of Mr. Weld's nomination for ambassador to Mexico by President Clinton (Reuters photo)

Helms rejects Weld hearing; nomination stuck

WASHINGTON (R) — A dispute over the post of U.S. ambassador to Mexico brought high drama to the U.S. Senate Friday when conservative Jesse Helms stonewalled attempts to get a nomination hearing for fellow Republican William Weld, President Bill Clinton's choice for the job.

Sen. Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, spent most of a 30-minute "special meeting" of the panel criticising the news media, fellow senators and Mr. Weld, a moderate former governor of Massachusetts.

Mr. Weld later told reporters that Sen. Helms was acting like a despot. The White House said Mr. Clinton would look for new ways to circumvent Sen. Helms, who says Mr. Weld is too soft on drugs to serve as ambassador in a drug-exporting country.

The dispute divides the Republican Party and highlights the way the Republican-dominated Senate can complicate the administration's foreign policy.

Mr. Clinton met Mr. Weld Friday "to assure (him) that we're going to continue to press hard to see if we can't find some way for the Senate to move ahead in a way that clearly most senators want to move," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry.

The president appealed to Senate majority leader Trent Lott to overrule Sen. Helms. With lightning speed he received Sen. Lott's response — the Weld nomination should be withdrawn.

"All I have ever asked for is a fair hearing and an up or down vote on a man I feel is very qualified," Mr. Clinton said at a White House ceremony to announce the nomination of Dr. David Satcher as U.S. Surgeon General.

Strong words flew in all directions. Sen. Helms attacked Mr. Weld and the media. Mr. Weld and sympathetic Democrats attacked Sen. Helms.

"What Mr. Weld appears

to be threatening is that unless his nomination to Mexico is moved, he will begin a war within the Republican Party. Let him try," said Sen. Helms.

Mr. Weld, speaking outside the hearing room later, retorted: "It seemed that the Senate is a despotic institution... People out there on main street are not going to understand." Mr. Weld added that he would continue to study Spanish to prepare for the Mexico post.

California Senator Dianne Feinstein said: "In four and a half years in the Senate this is the first time I have felt ashamed to be a member of the body. It did not take place according to democratic principles."

"He (Sen. Helms) is out of bounds, out of line and out of touch. The American people are sick and tired of this kind of backroom political tactic," Senator Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, said in a statement.

Sen. Lott attacked Mr. Weld's handling of the internal party squabble and repeated the argument that Mr. Weld was too soft on illegal drugs. Mr. Weld had spoken in favour of marijuana-for-medical-purposes and of needle programmes to stop addicts spreading disease.

"The heavy-handed, and personally negative campaign waged by Mr. Weld for that position has demonstrated the need for a more able and more astute appointee to that post," Sen. Lott said.

In one of the most theatrical events seen in the Senate in years, Sen. Helms dominated the Senate meeting forced by Mr. Weld supporters and gavelled down their requests to speak. Ultimately, they took their case to a Senate hallway amid a frenzy of television cameras, reporters, and staff.

Cambodian resistance commander denies he is seeking asylum abroad

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The top military commander loyal to deposed Cambodian co-Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh denied Saturday that he and his senior lieutenants were seeking asylum abroad.

General Nhiek Bun Chhay, the chief of staff of the prince's resistance movement, said reports that he and the others wanted to flee to Australia were designed to "mislead" the national and international community.

"Neither myself nor General Khan Savouen nor the other two have any intention of living in Australia or any other country," Gen. Nhiek Bun Chhay said in a statement faxed to news organisations.

"(We) will continue to lead the struggle against the dictatorial regime and genocide of (Second Prime Minister) Hun Sen until our country, Cambodia, has human rights protection and real democracy."

Mr. Hun Sen effectively deposed Prince Ranariddh in fierce fighting in the capital in July and has since been attempting to dislodge the prince's forces from their last bastion of O'Smach on the Thai-Cambodian border.

Local newspapers, citing Phnom Penh officials, have reported that Gen. Nhiek Bun Chhay and top deputies Khan Savouen, Serey Kosal and Lay Virak have applied to the government for passports so they can seek asylum in Australia.

The officials have claimed the commanders and their men are tired of fighting and want to lay down their weapons.

But military analysts, noting that all four men already held passports, say the reports are more likely designed to discourage the resistance which has held tenaciously to its last stronghold.

"Hun Sen and the government are more than a little annoyed that they have not yet been able to capture O'Smach," said one. "They apparently feel that a little psychological warfare may help."

Gen. Nhiek Bun Chhay's statement, which carried the letterhead of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and was said to have been written in O'Smach, was faxed from the neighbouring Thai province of Surin.

Meanwhile, Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk has turned down a suggestion from Prince Ranariddh, his son, to go to the U.N. General Assembly session in place of Mr. Hun Sen.

King Sihanouk has already approved Mr. Hun Sen and the prince's replacement, Ung Huot, as Cambodian representatives at assembly session opening Tuesday.

"I will not allow myself to go to the U.N. in place of... Hun Sen and... Ung Huot who would miss reproaching me for repudiating my own signature which I put on their letter of accreditation," the king said in an interview with staff from his own bulletin.

A copy of the interview was released by the palace Saturday.

King Sihanouk said Mr. Hun Sen and Mr. Ung Huot would accuse him of violating the constitution if he were to go to the United Nations instead of the government delegation.

Prince Ranariddh claimed legitimacy to represent Cambodia at the world body and was infuriated when King Sihanouk approved credentials for Mr. Hun Sen and his delegation.

The king later said although he still regarded Prince Ranariddh as a legitimate prime minister, he had no choice but to sign government decrees and other documents while he was in the country.

The prince then suggested a way out of the wrangle was for King Sihanouk to go to New York instead of either Mr. Hun Sen or Prince Ranariddh.

A senior U.N. official said Thursday the United Nations Credentials Committee would decide Thursday or Friday who would officially represent Cambodia at the assembly session.

Cambodia's U.N. representative Prince Sisowath Sirirath, a supporter of Prince Ranariddh, said in New York Friday he hoped the Assembly's Credentials Committee would defer action on his country's contested U.N. seat.

If the committee defers action, the present situation would continue, with Prince Sisowath remaining as Cambodia's U.N. envoy.

Doctors cut off woman's head, then screw it back

LONDON (R) — A doctor in Britain has cut off a woman's head in a pioneering operation and screwed it back on again. The patient survived.

Bridget Fudgell was operated on to correct a crippling condition which meant her face pointed permanently downwards, newspapers reported Saturday.

In a 17-hour operation, surgeon Steve Gill detached the 36-year-old former secretary's head from her spinal column, leaving it connected by the spinal chord, key blood vessels and the skin at the front of her neck.

Dr. Gill then cut a wedge out of the base of her skull and the top vertebra before

fixing her head back with a metal plate and two screws, leaving her looking forward.

Ms. Fudgell suffers from a bone condition called ankylosing spondylitis, a rheumatic condition which progressively fuses bones in the spine together.

But after she broke her neck in a fall four years ago her head became fixed facing down.

Ms. Fudgell said she was petrified after hearing details of the surgery, but thanked Dr. Gill for changing her life.

Dr. Gill did the operation in February but only presented it at the British Society of Neurosurgeons last week.

Most Taiwan people support government foreign policy

TAIPEI (R) — Most Taiwan people support the government's policy of developing ties with other countries, even though this can trigger tensions with rival China, a state-sponsored survey said Saturday.

The poll, conducted in August by the cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council, showed 77.6 per cent of the 1,067 interviewees agreed Taiwan should continue to expand foreign relations despite the possibility of heightening tensions across the Taiwan Strait.

Only 16.4 per cent disagreed. The rest had no opinion.

In a similar poll conducted in February, 71.4 per cent supported the government's foreign policy, while 17 per cent disagreed.

"The public opinion poll shows an overwhelming

support for President Lee Teng-hui's trips overseas," the council's Vice-Chairman Lin Chong-Pin told reporters, broadcast on state television.

"By making such visits, President Lee is demonstrating the fact of our existence to the international community. President Lee's visits are not intended to pursue Taiwan independence," Mr. Lin said.

Any democratic government could not alter the policy that has such a strong public backing, Mr. Lin added.

President Lee is currently visiting four diplomatic allies in Central and South America.

Beijing has regarded the Nationalist Republic of China government as a renegade province since a civil war split them in 1949 and

strongly opposes other countries forging official ties with Taipei.

In his keynote speech to the Communist Party's 15th Congress Friday, China's Communist Party chief and state President Jiang Zemin reiterated Beijing's resolve to crush any move toward Taiwan's independence.

Taipei, which has embraced multiparty democracy, maintains that renunciation is impossible before the Communist Party drops its monopoly on power and allows political liberalisation.

China effectively scuttled Lee's hopes of rubbing shoulders with world leaders during his first stop in Panama, where pressure from Beijing prompted most leaders to cancel plans to attend an international meeting about the Panama Canal.

China top army man hails huge cuts

BEIJING (R) — China's top military man gave his formal approval Saturday to a plan by Communist Party Chief Jiang Zemin to slash the armed forces by 500,000 in the next three years.

Liu Huaqing, senior vice-chairman of the party's Central Military Commission and one of seven members of the all-powerful politburo Standing Committee, voiced his support at a panel meeting of delegates to the 15th party congress.

Mr. Jiang opened the congress Friday with a 30,000-word speech in which he announced China would pare its 3.1 million strong People's Liberation Army (PLA) by 500,000 by the turn of the century.

Mr. Liu described the reduction "as a major measure to strengthen the quality of the People's Liberation Army (PLA)," the Xinhua News Agency said in a terse two-paragraph report.

Chinese party sources say Mr. Liu has long been fiercely opposed to such huge cuts, coming so soon after late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping cut the military by nearly 25 per cent to 3.1 million soldiers in the 1980s.

Mr. Liu, locked for months in a tussle with Mr. Jiang to retain his politburo position, has apparently lost that struggle as well as a battle to win appointments at the top of the party for his own men, the sources said.

Mr. Jiang, who is chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission, is determined to remove the 81-year-old Liu from the politburo at this week's congress, replacing him with one of his own proteges, they said.

Mr. Jiang's favoured candidate to replace Mr. Liu on the Standing Committee if a seat is left open for the military would be Zhang Wannian, also a vice-chairman of the Military Commission.

Mr. Liu told other military delegates to the congress Saturday that China would strive to improve scientific research in defence, Xinhua said.

Mr. Jiang said his aim with the huge army cuts was to forge a leaner and meaner fighting machine.

The army "should adhere to the strategy of active defence, improve its quality and take the road of fewer but better troops with Chinese characteristics," Mr. Jiang said.

Mighty hurricane may hit California

MEXICO CITY (R) — Hurricane Linda, one of the mightiest storms seen in the eastern Pacific, was raging off the Mexican coast Friday, and some forecasters said it could become the first hurricane to hit California.

Linda, packing winds of 250 to 300 kilometres off Mexico's Pacific coast, was deemed by the U.S. National Weather Service to be the strongest hurricane ever seen in the eastern Pacific.

Mexico's National Weather Service put Linda at 480 kilometres southwest of the resort town of Cabo San Lucas in Mexico's Baja California state. It has sent heavy rains to lash the coast and restricted shipping for three days.

While forecasters expected the hurricane to continue on its 10 mph trek north-west, they said it could switch path as it reaches U.S. waters Monday.

"There is a big uncertainty after three days," the National Weather Service said in a report. "A large trough just west of Linda... could steer the hurricane northward and threaten the southern California coast."

If Linda were to veer east, it could be the first hurricane in history to hit

California's coastline, although other storm-watchers argued the danger was slight.

"The threat of this massive hurricane threatening southern California remains very real," a report by the privately run U.S. Weather Services Corp (WSC) said. "If this hurricane does strike the California coast it would be late Monday night or early Tuesday."

The storm was seen moving closer to Mexico's Pacific coast, to 400 kilometres southwest of Cabo San Lucas by midnight Saturday, Mexico's Weather Service said. Winds and waves from the storm extended 1,000 kilometres from the storm's centre and flooded several Pacific states.

WSC meteorologist Scott Yuknis added that Linda could also provoke "major flooding" along the Baja California and California coasts. He said Linda could reach 720 kilometres southwest of San Diego by Monday morning.

California has never been hit by a hurricane, although in 1939 a tropical storm reached the state's shores, he said.

"So climatologically speaking the chances of it hitting California are pretty

slim," Mr. Yuknis said.

"But something unusual could happen, as we have already seen the precedent of a storm this season holding on to its tropical characteristics."

He said unusual weather patterns stem from this year's El Nino weather phenomenon, which warms surface waters in the South Pacific Ocean and has spurred catastrophic effects on global weather. The last El Nino year was 1982-1983.

Weather forecasters said warm waters of between 80.6 degrees Fahrenheit (27 degrees Celsius) could fuel the hurricane and lengthen its lifespan.

But Mexican meteorologists said there was little danger the hurricane would hit land in Mexico or the United States, arguing it would continue to veer northwest on its current path and would weaken slightly in intensity.

"Our forecast is that the hurricane will not touch ground and will gradually weaken off the coast," Mexican meteorologist Martin Pellez said.

Shipping was restricted in the region, the Mexican Weather Service said, although Pacific coast ports were all open.

Comoros forms transitional body to resolve crisis

MORONI (AFP) — Comoran President Mohammad Taki Abdul Karim has set up a transitional body to replace the government dissolved amid a crisis sparked by a successful separatist uprising, a statement said.

The State Transition Commission will include three representatives from the breakaway island of Anjouan and two from the smaller island of Moheli, which backs Anjouan's bid for succession, the communiqué released late Friday said.

Mr. Taki dissolved the government of the Indian Ocean republic and assumed full powers Wednesday

after a failed military operation last week to put down insurrection on Anjouan.

The 300 troops he sent to the island ran into stiff armed opposition from separatist activists and civilians. The government denied reports from rebels and non-governmental organisations that around 40 of the soldiers died and insisted only one soldier was killed in the operation.

The commission will only include two members of the dissolved government; Finance Minister Mubammad Ali Solih and Education Minister Mouzawoir Abdallah.

Mr. Abdallah, who was

recently sent to negotiate with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Ethiopia, will become the commission spokesman.

The presidential spokesman Abdou Soimadou will become director of Mr. Taki's cabinet and the army's Chief of Staff Moillime Djoussou will be responsible for public security.

Mr. Taki announced that a national union government would be set up after the formation of a transitional body in order to resolve the crisis that was triggered last month when Anjouan and Moheli declared independence and asked to return to the rule of the former colonial power, France.

Separatists on the islands say they have been financially, politically and socially neglected by regimes on the island of Grande Comore. Some have contrasted their difficult lifestyles with those of residents of a fourth island in the Comoran archipelago, Mayotte, which elected to remain French in 1975.

According to the statement, the commission will be exclusively presided over by Mr. Taki.

The commission's main aims include carrying out state affairs and negotiating with the OAU, United Nations and the Arab League to resolve the crisis.

A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing the silhouettes of three people in a dynamic pose against a bright, grainy background. The figures are dark and featureless, suggesting a lack of detail in the original image or a high level of contrast. The person on the left is standing, the person in the center is crouching or sitting, and the person on the right is standing with one leg raised. The background is a bright, textured white, possibly a wall or a sky, with a dark horizontal band at the bottom.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1979

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية اليومية المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 684311, 699634

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Shared vision for peace

DURING HER first visit to the Kingdom as secretary of state, Madeleine Albright and the Jordanian leadership will today have the opportunity to explore avenues to further cement the excellent ties that have developed between the two countries in the past few years, a result of the personal and friendly relations that His Majesty King Hussein and President Bill Clinton have nurtured.

Jordan, which values its long-standing ties with the U.S. and prides itself on being a friend of the American people, will want to impress on Secretary Albright its unfaltering commitment to the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Not only will Jordan offer its sincere and good advice to its American friend, but will strive to do all it can to further the cause of peace. To do that, a strong and stable Jordan is an essential ingredient for peace-making and peace-building in the region.

We were heartened and grateful in this regard to hear President Clinton tell Ambassador Marwan Muasher that the U.S. and Jordan "share a common strategy for regional peace and cooperation" and that the U.S. will "support (Jordan's) legitimate security and economic needs."

Jordan is aware and willing to play its full role in the region. Yet the Kingdom is fully aware of the dangers inherent in the lack of progress on other peace fronts. While Jordan appreciates the U.S. determination to pursue peace in the Middle East, it also is aware of the many dangers that loom on the horizon if the process continues to falter because of the procrastination on both sides of the Arab-Israeli divide. While committing itself to fighting terrorism and fanaticism in all its forms, the Kingdom hopes that Israel at the same time will fight its own brand of fanatics who would deny the Palestinians their political rights.

Jordan will continue in collaboration with the U.S. and all peace-loving nations to pursue peace for its own people and others.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i Saturday paid tribute to Mother Theresa who, he said, has drawn the attention of millions during her life, as she is doing now in her death. Sultan Hattab said that the whole world of different faiths, Muslims, Buddhists and Christians alike, are taking part in Mother Theresa's funeral to express their respect and in recognition of her great deeds to help the poorest of the poor. Mother Theresa was never satisfied with prayers to God to help the poor, she spent her whole life practically serving and helping the poor, the sick and the rejected, noted the writer. He said Mother Theresa, who won the Nobel peace prize for her great service to mankind, had no armies but was able to conquer the hearts of hundreds of millions of people through her dedication to serving the poor. From Iran to Europe, delegations have flocked to Calcutta to pay tribute to this great woman who, said the writer, stands out as a symbol of humanity and love of mankind. The writer said that the world, which abounds with misery and poor and rejected people, is in dire need of the like of Mother Theresa who, he said, can offer real service to mankind without expecting anything in return.

REFLECTING ON the outcome of the U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's tour of the Middle East, a writer for Al Dustour said since the first day of her visit to the region, the U.S. secretary voiced her country's absolute support for Israel's military superiority over that of the Arab Nation. Oreib Rintawi said that Ms. Albright failed to achieve the minimum requirements of her mission, that is to convince the Israelis and the Palestinians to resume their negotiations. The writer said it is to be noted that the U.S. secretary did criticise the continued building of Jewish settlements on Arab territory but this criticism was expressed in very timid and shy words and her talks with the two parties did not cover the root cause of the Middle East issue but rather focused on security matters: that is why her mission achieved almost nothing so far, according to the writer. He said it is regrettable to see the U.S. secretary pay more attention, during her tour, to the conveying of the Doha summit than to the important task of helping this region achieve a comprehensive peace.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

'Job security breeds inefficiency'

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE SO-CALLED "job security", whether in the public or private sectors or in non-profit organisations, is a dangerous guarantee which breeds inefficiency, prevents good performance and eliminates flexibility and mobility in the labour market.

When a secretary-general in a ministry or a general manager in a company decide to get rid of a member of the staff due to his or her unsatisfactory performance, they will be met with stiff resistance from the public opinion and from pressure groups. The act will be described as unfair, if not outrageous, the expelled employee may go to the court and receive a favourable verdict, in which case he will be reinstated in his job and receive his pay for the year or more he/she was without work and nobody would care about proper management and the spirit of cooperation between the employee and his superiors.

The outcry against administrative firing is a sort of hypocrisy. Those who object, claim that they sympathise with the fired person in an environment of unemployment. But they know that the department or company concerned will soon appoint a replacement. The new appointee may have a larger family to support and more difficult situation. They also know for sure that keeping

in place a bad employee means depriving a qualified person of employment. Of course, replacing the unwanted staff will better serve the interests of the company, assuming that the responsible manager is concerned about efficiently running his department or company. Prejudice of managers should not be taken for granted.

Even if we tolerate the protection of labourers and low-grade employees because they can cause little harm, we should not tolerate the protection and job security of managers and senior staff who should be protected only by their personal competence and the need for their expertise, and should not be allowed to just secure fat salaries for themselves at the end of every month, irrespective of their productivity or lack of it.

If for some reason or another an under-secretary of a ministry becomes unwanted, his minister sends him to become an advisor at the Prime Ministry. He accepts to stay there for a year or more doing nothing, because advisors in the prime-ministry are never consulted. Yet, when the government finally makes the right decision to relieve him of his duties, he most likely complains and appeals to the sense of justice of the highest authorities in the country instead of being embarrassed for having used public funds (in the form of salary) one month after

another while doing nothing and failing to resign and look for another job.

An employee who is fired from his job does not usually have a future if he stays on against the will of his boss. Chances are that he will have a better future somewhere else. Dismissing an unwanted employee may be good for the business, and good for him as well. Firing is the other side of appointing someone else who is better.

A minister is accountable for his entire ministry towards the Parliament. The general manager, likewise, is responsible for the management of his entire company towards the board of directors or the shareholders. Both have the right and the duty to get the right assistants to implement their policies and carry out their decisions. If they have no say in choosing the team which will help them then, they should not be held responsible for the outcome and shortcomings. Responsibility is proportionate to freedom of action.

Job security is the legitimate cause of inefficiency. It works as an incentive for incompetence and discourages hard work. It allows the unfit to remain entrenched in a sensitive job. It is a guaranteed prescription for failure in government and private enterprises.

Principles for final status should address Israeli, Palestinian concerns

By Gershon Baskin

The writer is Israeli Director of the Israel/Palestine Centre for Research and Information. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

THE VIOLENCE and terror of the recent past should have been expected. Israeli security experts had warned the government that without political and/or economic progress in the Palestinian territories, violence should be expected. The direct responsibility for the violence falls on the Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. However, the leaders of both sides have contributed to the return of the spirit of conflict to our region. Those who preach against the peace process in words and in deeds, should they succeed in killing the process altogether, will be directly responsible for a wave of violence and terror of the likes yet unknown to this area.

No. This is not peace. Peace and terror cannot coexist. The enemies of peace are many and the heritage of war, hatred and fear make it difficult for all of us to adopt a mentality of peace. We, Israelis and Palestinians alike, respond to each other in a language of hostility. We call upon our suffering to strengthen our faith in our own justice and in the belief that we possess all of the truth. We approach each other without attempting to understand the basic needs and challenges facing the other side.

The only way to achieve peace and security is to begin to develop new strategic relations based upon cooperation and mutuality. Ending the peace process will bring about a total end to the possibility of security cooperation between the sides. "Taking back the security" by sending Israeli troops into Palestinian areas will not enhance Israel's security — quite the opposite. Only by reaching a joint strategic vision and translating it into real policies will we raise the level of security for Israel and for the Palestinian as well.

Despite the all too clear weaknesses of Yasser Arafat, it is with him that Israel must find a modus vivendi. Israel must understand that agreements devoid of national honour will not endure. Arrogance is not the language of peace making. Reconciliation will not be achieved by unilateral steps undertaken by either side.

What should the sides do now? Netanyahu and Arafat must meet immediately in closed sessions, and for many hours. Both men must declare the final and total end of all violence, physical and verbal. Both must commit themselves to enter continuous and intensive negotiations, aimed at resolving all the open items in the interim agreement and on final status issues in parallel. Both of them must make a commitment not to undertake any unilateral acts. Both men must understand that failure to undertake such measures will bring to the region a new round of violence and terror which could easily go

beyond the immediate boundaries.

These proposals do not talk about justice and they fall short of being the best solution, but they are all in the realm of what I believe to be possible. These are my own thoughts and many of them are not ideas which I am "married to", but rather ideas for further exploration.

The main task of any leader is to protect the lives and welfare of their citizens. Muscle flexing may serve the ego but it does not defend human lives. Israel must exploit its strength as an asset in its efforts to achieve peace. The security of Israel is not only measured by the strength of the Israeli army but also by the measure of security felt by the Palestinians. Israel must begin to see that the best way to serve its own security interests is by creating solutions which serve the joint security interests of both sides. Only when Israel and the Palestinians succeed in creating joint and mutual interests will they really begin to understand the terms "peace and security".

For Israel, the main consideration is always security. For the Palestinians, the main consideration is their need for national honour and identity. The more the Palestinians feel secure in their national identity, the more Israel will feel secure.

Israel and many Israelis measure their national honour and pride in a converse relationship to the national honour and pride of the Palestinians. This relationship does a great injustice to the strength of the people of Israel and the state of Israel. Israel needs mainly to prevent terrorism and violence. The Palestinians will only really be partners in that struggle after it identifies with their own national interests. Real security will only be achieved when the Palestinians will be enabled to have the political will to fight against the enemies of peace, because then, if they fail to fight against them, they will have too much to lose. Both sides must learn that joint and mutual interests are more important than the narrow, singular interests of either side alone.

The time factor is crucial. There is an Israeli interest to make rapid compromises with the Palestinians on certain issues instead of spreading out the negotiations in favor of an agreement which might be (or might not be) better for Israel. The final status negotiations will be difficult and complicated. The issues in conflict are so complex that it would be

worthwhile for the sides to agree to certain principles from the outset:

1. The Palestinians must be full and equal partners in the negotiations.
2. The negotiations must achieve final agreements and not a series of additional interim arrangements.
3. The agreement must bring about good and open neighbourly relations based on cooperation and not on closure and total separation.
4. Israel must be sincerely interested and determined to aid the Palestinian economic development and growth. This must be translated into actual policies which will aid rapid and intensive development plans.
5. The agreements must answer Israel's real needs for security and Palestinians' real needs for national identity and honour as members of the community of nations.
6. Israel must demand and encourage the Palestinians to develop a true democratic regime. This is an Israeli and a Palestinian interest.

The adoption of these principles, together with an attitude of "good will" and mutual respect will help the sides to reach healthy and long-lasting agreements. In order to get out of the mud that the sides are sinking in right now, Israel should agree, pro-actively to the principle of Palestinian statehood. The establishment of a Palestinian state alongside that of Israel is almost the only practical result which can come out of the peace process. It is in Israel's interest to declare this from the start. Only after accepting this principle will it be possible to focus on the fundamental issues and Israel's fears regarding Palestinian statehood. Only after the principle of Palestinian statehood is accepted will the Palestinians be capable and ready to discuss the limitations on their sovereignty. If the leaders of Israel are willing to declare their readiness for the establishment of a Palestinian state, the current deadlock would surely end and the sides could move ahead with real peace making.

There is no suggestion here that the real fears of Israel regarding a Palestinian state should be ignored. Following are some of these fears and possible ways to answer them:

1. A sovereign Palestinian state has the right to establish an army with artillery, an air force and a navy. A Palestinian state would also have sovereignty over its airspace. A Palestinian artillery force could easily hit at any target in Israel. The Palestinian state could establish military industries producing goods such as Katyusha missiles and even non-conventional weapons. Even factories for simple ammunition could endanger Israel's security.
2. An independent Palestinian state would have full control over its borders. For Israel there are two main concerns — 1) the importation of weapons and explosives, and 2) the uncontrolled entry of hundreds and thousands of Palestinian returnees and persons non grata. This would threaten the potential economic sta-

bility of the Palestinian state and Israel would have to face the probable leakage of thousands of Palestinians entering Israel illegally; this would be the implementation of the Palestinian right of return through a back door, which is perceived by Israel as an existential threat.

3. An independent Palestinian state can enter into strategic and defensive alliances with third countries which are not at peace with Israel.

4. An independent Palestinian state would have control over its natural resources. Palestinian control over the water resources could bring about over-pumping or the polluting of the water through inefficient or inadequate environmental policies which would endanger Israel's water resources.

Proposed solutions aimed at answering Israel's legitimate fears are based on the principle of healthy and efficient cooperation between two equal partners. The Palestinian state must adopt by treaty and in its constitution the principle of demilitarisation. Just as in Austria, by treaty, and in Costa Rica, by constitutional decision, the Palestinian state must be a state without an army. This is not only vital in order to reach peace, it is also in the Palestinians' interest so that they can invest their revenues in economic development and not in their army. The Palestinians will also have to agree to some form of third-party observers who would report to international and Israeli bodies on Palestinian compliance with the decision of non-militarisation.

Israel and the Palestinians must agree that the right of return of Palestinian refugees will be solved mostly within the Palestinian state. Israel should offer its expertise in the absorption of new comers as well as in leading an international effort to raise funds for refugee resettlement in order to provide housing and jobs. It must be understood that Israel will not absorb the returnees in Israel proper and that leakage into Israel proper will not be tolerated. Understanding this in advance of the problem will help deal with it once it occurs.

The Palestinians should agree to some kind of international supervision, agreeable to Israel, on its ports of entry. The danger of the importation of weapons and explosives is too severe while there are still too many people willing to take their own lives (and the lives of many other innocent people) in order to derail the peace process. There is a real danger that the closer we get to real peace the more desperate the enemies of peace will become. Therefore, there must be an efficient and trustworthy mechanism for the supervision of the ports of entry.

another while doing nothing and failing to resign and look for another job.

Water resources must be under joint control and management. There must be mechanisms for cooperation and for joint decision making.

There is no doubt that the limitations which are suggested here reduce the nature of Palestinian sovereignty. It may be that these limitations are not acceptable to the Palestinians. Israel holds the primary asset which Palestinians would like to attain — the possibility of establishing their state — and only Israel can enable this. In order to attain this asset, the Palestinians will have to voluntarily give up pieces of their sovereignty. They must do this in order to answer Israel's fears which are based on generations of bloody conflict.

unfairly give up pieces of their sovereignty. They must do this in order to answer Israel's fears which are based on generations of bloody conflict.

Accepting the recommendations above would lead to a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process. Both sides know that they have to make compromises in order to achieve peace. While each side is waiting for the other side to take the first step, many people are suffering. Responsible leaders should look beyond their own egos and take bold steps. Both sides must understand that this is the path to achieving peace now and peace for the generations to come.

LETTERS

Tell it as it is

To the Editor:

AS AN intelligent person and an experienced diplomat, Madeleine Albright surely understands the reasons for the shattered peace process. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, from the first, came out of his corner swinging. There is hardly a person out here who has kind feelings for him. If he has been convinced the U.S. secretary of state that the main problem for him is security for Israel, then we would grant that he is correct. But the crux of the matter is "why" Israeli security is so threatened. The answer is that Netanyahu has, from the beginning, set out to destroy the Oslo accords and show only contempt for the Palestinian people. He is the kind of man that makes even pacifists want to smack him; how much more people who are living in desperation? The official Likud response to Ms. Albright's suggestion that they should make a temporary "halt" in settlement activity should trip off all kinds of alarms in the minds of the American leaders: "To freeze settlement activity is to stop our life." It does not take a secretary of state to see where the main problem is in all of this. We hope Ms. Albright does not go back to Washington and report back to President Clinton "security, security, violence." This is a tiresome refrain and only plays into the hands of the Israeli propaganda. The secretary of state should tell it like it is when she goes back to Washington.

Bob Robertson,
Amman.

Two wrongs make just that

To the Editor:

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT says "there is no moral equivalence between killing people and building houses." That sounds right, but is it? History has shown that lesser wrongs committed by governments are more dangerous than greater wrongs committed by individuals.

For example, in February 1936, David Frankfurter, a Jewish medical student, murdered Wilhelm Gustloff, the Nazi representative in Switzerland. And in November 1938, a seventeen-year-old Jewish boy unloaded a pistol full of bullets into a German diplomat in France.

It was wrong for Herschel Grynszpan to murder Ernst vom Rath in retribution for the German government's decision to deport Polish Jews back to Poland, but even if Grynszpan and Frankfurter were helped by the Paris-based International League Against Antisemitism, as seems likely, compared to what the German government was doing to Jews, their greater wrong was a lesser evil.

Evil is committed when wrong is put forth as right by government decree, and when injustice is declared legal in courts of law. When the government of Israel takes the land of people it does not represent, or demolishes their homes as punishment for crimes that they did not commit, or retracts their right to live in the city where they were born, or holds them in prison without charging them with a crime, it commits evil.

Yasser Arafat has surely abetted terrorism in his time, but that does not mean that the U.S. administration should abet evil. By doing that, our leaders could soil every American.

John Hartung
jhartung@netmail.hschklyn.edu
New York

Features/
Children's
of their o

might expected to

(continued from page 1)

should resume from the

previous Labour-led

spoke-man Fabian K...

A single during a two-

centred Syria's continuing

one peace or the New

central revolutions and

and said

that hour of the re-

discussed with Mr

negotiations, he

was expected to

the position of each

to

Fourth government

withdrawing fully

the 1967 Mid-

between Netanyahu

the outcome not to

the conditions should

to

Mr Netanyahu's

withdrawing fully

the 1967 Mid-

between Netanyahu

the outcome not to

the conditions should

to

Mr Netanyahu's

withdrawing fully

the 1967 Mid-

between Netanyahu

the outcome not to

the conditions should

to

Mr Netanyahu's

withdrawing fully

the 1967 Mid-

between Netanyahu

the outcome not to

the conditions should

to

Mr Netanyahu's

withdrawing fully

the 1967 Mid-

between Netanyahu

the outcome not to

the conditions should

to

Mr Netanyahu's

withdrawing fully

the 1967 Mid-

between Netanyahu

the outcome not to

the conditions should

to

Mr Netanyahu's

withdrawing fully

the 1967 Mid-

between Netanyahu

the outcome not to

the conditions should

to

Mr Netanyahu's

withdrawing fully

the 1967 Mid-

between Netanyahu

Children's language is indication of their overall development

By Nahla Y. Lahleh

THROUGH THE first three years parents live every first thing with their children: their first smile, their first step and their first word. Each of these first things will develop together to form a whole person, a unique character who could talk, walk, interact and communicate effectively.

As the parents enjoy these events, they should also watch when and how they take place: it is one of the parents' responsibilities to watch the language development of their child.

Through the first six months, the child should be able to produce different sounds accompanied by a social smile. There is cause for concern if the child does not develop any lan-

guage by the age of one year. Usually the child should be able to produce his first word before completing his first year and gradually improve his language; then he/she will be able to name many common objects in his environment.

It is estimated that communication disorders, including speech, language and hearing, affect one in every ten people in the United States.

Parents should compare the child's communication skills, at every stage, with those of his/her peers or siblings within the same age group. The child is considered delayed when he/she is noticeably behind his/her age group in the acquisition and production of speech and or language skills.

Usually children begin putting words together into longer utterances about seven months after producing their first word. While producing these utterances, they make grammatical mistakes and produce some sounds incorrectly, although this should not prevent a successful verbal communication with others. At this stage, parents should give time to the child to form his sentence, be patient and not interrupt his speech — accepting all the mistakes — show concern and pay attention to the child.

If the child shows little interest in communicating with others, has a poor social interaction and is behind his age group, parents should not wait till he

grows up; then it will be too late.

By the age of five, the child should master his language. True, he cannot talk about the rules of language, but he uses these rules and applies them in story telling, singing and all other verbal activities.

If this does not appear in the child's language, parents should seek the advice of a speech and language pathologist who could evaluate the child's language and decide whether professional help is needed or whether the child could go on developing the language with parents' assistance.

The writer is a speech and language pathologist. She contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Albright expected to press GCC not to boycott MENA

(Continued from page 1)

forget that without Egypt there would have been no peace process, no Madrid, no Camp David, no Oslo and no handshake on the White House lawn," she said, before shaking hands with Mr. Mubarak.

"I look forward to a future where we can shake many hands over the peace process," Ms. Albright said. The historic handshake between Mr. Arafat and former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn exactly four years ago marked the signing of the Oslo peace accords.

Ms. Albright failed however to get an Egyptian commitment for high-level participation at a regional economic conference set to take place in Qatar in November.

Mr. Mubarak linked Egypt's attendance to progress in the peace process.

Ms. Albright also failed to narrow the gap between Syria and Israel during talks late Friday in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

A senior U.S. official said there was "still a pretty significant gap" between Syria and Israel and that there had been no fundamental change in the positions of either country.

President Assad told Ms. Albright during talks in Damascus Friday Syria was still committed to make peace with Israel but renewed conditions for resuming the negotiations broken over a year ago.

"Talks [with Israel] should resume from the point where they left off [with the previous Labour-led Israeli government]," Mr. Assad's spokesman Jubran Kourieh quoted the president as telling Ms. Albright during a four-hour meeting.

"President Assad reiterated Syria's commitment to achieve a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the Madrid conference, Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle," Mr. Kourieh said.

Ms. Albright, making her first tour of the region since taking office eight months ago, discussed with Mr. Assad how to revive the stalled Syrian-Israeli negotiations, he said.

"Both reviewed efforts being exerted to revive the peace process on all tracks and the position of each of the parties concerned," Mr. Kourieh said.

Syria says the previous Israeli government agreed during talks with Damascus to withdraw fully from the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was elected in May 1996 after vowing not to withdraw from the occupied Arab lands, said negotiations should start from the zero point.

Syria strongly condemned Mr. Netanyahu's stand and said no talks would be held until he changed his policies.

U.S. officials said Ms. Albright's talks with Mr. Assad were "exploratory." No further U.S. comment was immediately available. Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa and Syria's Ambassador to Washington Walid Muallem attended the Assad-Albright meeting at the presidential place, Mr. Kourieh said.

Also present was U.S. special Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross.

Meanwhile, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Saturday praised the mission by Ms. Albright but warned that war is still possible if the peace process is not put back on track. "We look favourably on the positions which Ms. Albright expressed, particularly her emphasis on peace accords and her refusal of Israeli unilateral acts," Mr. Arafat told journalists in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

But he said Ms. Albright "did not bring any new ideas."

Ms. Albright finished her three-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories on Friday without bridging the gap between Israeli security demands and Palestinian demands for a halt in Jewish settlement expansion.

Mutawi hails Albright efforts

(Continued from page 1)

that a meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and senior Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas would take place in New York, with the participation of Ms. Albright.

"These positive steps resulting from her visit strike an optimistic note,"

Dr. Mutawi said.

Dr. Mutawi said that during her meetings with Jordanian officials, "Jordan will outline our clear position regarding the best ways of putting the peace process back on track, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli track."

He added that Jordan believes that "implementing the agreement signed

[with the Palestinians] is a must to bring the peace process back on track."

He also told reporters that Palestinian presidential envoy Saeb Erekat, the minister of local government in the PNA cabinet, will arrive here Sunday to brief Jordanian officials on the outcome of Ms. Albright's efforts.

During her two-day visit

to Jordan, the U.S. official will inaugurate a "humanitarian" project which was sponsored by the U.S. government in Amman, Dr. Mutawi said. He did not elaborate.

Ms. Albright will arrive in Amman Sunday after meeting with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers in Saudi Arabia.

Ensour urges weeklies to adjust to law

(Continued from page 1)

concerning the weeklies financial status.

"We were astonished to receive notification from the PPD on August 27, 1997 demanding that we financially adjust to the provisions of the law though we have already supplied the PPD with official documents endorsed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade

attesting to our registered (JD300,000) capital as required by the law," said the memorandum.

"Acting from a desire to display our keenness on maintaining a constructive dialogue with the government, and after consulting with legal experts, we (the owners of the weeklies) seek to place before you our complaints," the statement said.

It went on to describe the different articles of the law before concluding that "As long as the weekly papers have provided sufficient evidence that they have complied with the regulations and the PPD law and that their capital has been raised as demanded by the law, there can be no justification for further action in this regard."

"We believe that the PPD

director's notification to the editors of the weekly newspapers is unjustified and requires reconsideration."

The memorandum to the prime minister requested that the PPD halt all attempts which it said aimed at closing down the weeklies and preventing them from exercising their role to serve the Jordanian society.

It's your money.
You deserve security.
You deserve high return potential.
You deserve our new
**AB Capital
Guaranteed Fund II.**

Available in US\$

You work hard for your money. And you deserve to have it work as hard as you do.

Which is why we're introducing our latest AB Capital Guaranteed Fund II. The term of this investment is two years, and Arab Bank will absolutely guarantee your principal investment at the end of that time.

So you have security. But what about return? We give you the opportunity for much higher potential returns than you get in a deposit account. Because the AB Capital Guaranteed Fund II is pegged to Japan's Nikkei 225, you get a chance to share in the growth of that index.

Call the number shown below and talk to one of our Investment Executives about how you can get security and potential growth with our AB Capital Guaranteed Fund II.

06-699 414
06-688816

Because you deserve it



Saudi Arabia seeks foreign funds for multi-billion-dollar projects

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has invited scores of foreign officials and businessmen for a conference in a bid to attract external funds for multi-billion-dollar projects, organisers said Saturday.

Three key Saudi ministers will present papers at the Oct. 18-20 meeting in the eastern industrial port of Yanbu on ventures involving oil, gas, water, electricity and communications.

"Saudi Arabia is hosting the conference to highlight its infrastructure projects and attract investment to the sectors which need foreign capital," said Hassan Abbas, manager of Infocentre, the organiser of the conference.

The Saudi ministers taking part include Ibrahim Al

Assaf, minister of finance and national economy, Ali Al Nuaimi, minister of oil, and Hashim Al Yamani, minister of industry and electricity.

The conference is also expected to attract ministers from the other Gulf states, as well as delegates from countries such as Japan, the United States, France and Britain.

Mr. Abbas said Saudi Arabia needed to pump more than \$30 billion into infrastructure projects over the next five years, and billions of dollars will also have to be invested in the development of oil and gas fields.

Industry sources said the kingdom, the world's dominant oil power, was expected to invest around \$10 billion in upgrading its

refining production capacity.

Saudi Arabia has also announced plans to privatise part of its huge public sector and improve investment laws to lure in foreign capital.

Riyadh has already launched plans to expand its production of petrochemicals and other related products to nearly 29 million tonnes by the year 2000 from the current output of around 25 million tonnes a year.

Although it controls more than a quarter of the world's recoverable oil reserves, Saudi Arabia's unwieldy economy has suffered from relatively lower oil prices over the past decade and the large costs incurred by the 1991 Gulf War.

The kingdom earned more than \$100 billion from crude exports a year during early 1980s but the income has plummeted to around \$40 billion.

The decline has created a persistent deficit in its budget despite continuous spending cuts and an expansion of non-oil sectors.

Industry sources said they expected Riyadh to readmit foreign partners into its oil sector to secure markets and funds for capacity expansion.

From a record 12 million barrels per day (bpd) in 1980, Saudi Arabia's oil production has slipped to around eight million bpd currently. Its sustainable capacity is estimated at 9.5 million bpd.

Oman tightens spending to eliminate budget deficit

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf state of Oman is sticking to a belt-tightening spending policy it announced three years ago to eliminate a budget deficit and lure investment, officials and bankers said Wednesday.

In contrast with neighbouring Saudi Arabia, Oman has succeeded in keeping expenditure under control despite its relatively low oil prices and a surge in oil prices over the past two years.

"The government is sticking to its goal of rationalising expenditure to wipe out the deficit and lure more private investments," said Mahmoud Jarwan, executive president of the Muscat Securities Market.

"In some years, the actual expenditure was lower than projected although revenues were higher. Such measures are part of our reforms aimed at balancing the budget and boosting investors' confidence in the economy," he told AFP.

In its 1996 report released this week, the Omani Central Bank said actual spending was cut by around 3.2 per

cent to 2.25 billion rials (\$5.85 billion) in 1996 over the previous year although revenues grew by 7.5 per cent to nearly 1.99 billion rials (\$5.17 billion).

This slashed the actual deficit to around 263.5 million rials (\$685.1 million) from 479.4 million rials (\$1.24 billion).

Bankers said the spending cuts have not affected growth as it was offset by a surge in private investment as a result of fresh government incentives.

A sharp expansion in non-oil sectors, mainly manufacturing and farming, coupled with a large increase in crude prices boosted Oman's gross domestic product by 10.7 per cent in 1996 compared with 6.5 per cent in 1995.

"There is a growth in most non-oil sectors due to reforms," an Omani banker said.

"The decline in government spending has largely been offset by an upturn in private business, which was encouraged by the strong financial position of the country and more incentives for projects."

Government to float \$100m worth of bonds

By Issam Qadmani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Finance Suleiman Hafez Saturday said the government will soon hold negotiations with four international banks to choose two of them to manage a \$100 million worth of bonds that the government intends to float in international markets.

Mr. Hafez said that 10 banks and financial institutions competed to acquire the management rights of these bonds that will be offered for trading in the London and Luxembourg stock markets.

He added that "only four offers out of 10 were appropriate."

Mr. Hafez did not reveal the names of these financial institutions, but said that they offered competitive prices.

Mr. Hafez said that the rate of return on those bonds has not yet been fixed, but that they would be in line with common international interest rates of around one per cent.

Pakistan exports up but textiles trade slides

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistan's overall exports surged by about nine per cent in the first two months of the current fiscal year from July but exports of the main textile sector declined by \$51 million, officials said Saturday.

Total exports during July-August rose to \$1.35 billion from \$1.23 billion last year, the official data said.

However, the export of cotton yarn decreased by 11.48 per cent, cotton fabrics down by 14.03 per cent, knitwear declined 34.53 per cent, bedwear slid 17.09 per cent, tarpaulin and canvas goods

dropped 62.86 per cent and cotton made-ups dipped by 8.10 per cent.

The cotton and textile sector contributed more than 62 per cent to the country's total exports which stood at \$8.26 billion during fiscal July 1996 to June 1997.

Official sources said major depreciation in European currencies against the dollar caused the decline in textile trade.

Pakistan has set an export target of \$9.5 billion during the current fiscal year and expects to narrow down the trade deficit to \$2.33 billion from \$3.37 billion last year.

Two Furnished Apartments In Western Shmeisani For Rent

The first is 200 sq.m. independent first floor apartment consisting of two bedrooms, guest room, sitting room, dining, glassed-in veranda, garden, garage.

The second is a 220 sq.m. second floor apartment consisting of three bedrooms, guest room, living room, glassed-in veranda.

Each of the two apartments has independent central heating, telephone, maid room, spacious kitchen and luxurious furniture.

Please call Tel. 665711, 664256

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
	US\$	DM	£	¥	FF	Sc	DKr	SEK	NT\$
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7740	0.6227	1.4674	121.00	1.3921	1735.10	1.9979	5.9630
DE Mark	0.5636	1.0000	0.3367	0.6227	55.36	0.7365	977.30	1.1293	3.3612
GB Sterling	1.6060	2.8500	1.0000	2.3530	194.05	2.2357	2785.00	3.2088	9.5766
CHF Franc	0.6515	1.2031	0.4239	0.9242	7.48	0.9480	1181.63	1.3620	4.0808
JP Yen	0.0068	1.4655	0.5142	1.1212	1.00	1.1500	1433.15	1.6505	4.9281
CA Dollar	0.7133	1.3067	0.4585	1.0738	1.13	1.1272	1477.17	1.4717	4.3948
IT Lira	0.0008	1.0218	0.3585	0.8845	1436.18	0.9019	1151	1.51	3.4347
NL Guilder	0.3606	0.6778	0.2314	0.5144	61.31	0.6804	866.03	1.0411	2.8631
FR Franc	0.1677	0.2974	0.1044	0.2400	20.27	0.2334	33.49	0.3349	0.9630

Middle Eastern Currencies									
	US\$	DM	£	¥	FF	Sc	DKr	SEK	NT\$
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7740	0.6227	1.4674	121.00	1.3921	1735.10	1.9979	5.9630
Jordan Dinar	1.4794	2.6200	0.9317	2.1940	184.00	2.1272	2685.00	3.2088	9.5766
Saudi Riyal	0.2668	0.4750	0.1605	0.3740	31.20	0.3657	457.30	0.5620	1.6656
Bahraini Dinar	2.465	4.3600	1.5977	3.8000	312.00	3.6572	4573.00	5.6200	16.6560
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.4880	0.1683	0.3840	32.00	0.3740	465.30	0.5620	1.6656
Kuwait Dinar	3.2952	5.8600	2.1233	4.9200	408.00	4.6572	5863.00	7.3200	21.8160
Emirate Dinar	0.2728	0.4830	0.1678	0.3800	31.60	0.3657	457.30	0.5620	1.6656
Libyan Dinar	0.3606	0.6378	0.2314	0.5144	61.31	0.6804	866.03	1.0411	2.8631
Egyptian	0.2947	0.5200	0.1811	0.4070	33.80	0.3989	497.30	0.6293	1.8877

Energy									
	US\$	DM	£	¥	FF	Sc	DKr	SEK	NT\$
Brent	18.34	32.70	11.90	27.40	2280.00	23.90	2985.00	37.60	1120.00
WTI	18.34	32.70	11.90	27.40	2280.00	23.90	2985.00	37.60	1120.00
Bonny	18.34	32.70	11.90	27.40	2280.00	23.90	2985.00	37.60	1120.00
Dubai	17.80	31.80	11.40	26.60	2200.00	23.40	2935.00	36.80	1090.00
UL Gas	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Mid-East Currencies									
	US\$	DM	£	¥	FF	Sc	DKr	SEK	NT\$
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4750	0.1605	0.3740	31.20	0.3657	457.30	0.5620	1.6656
AE Dirham	0.2722	0.4830	0.1678	0.3800	31.60	0.3657	457.30	0.5620	1.6656
KW Dinar	3.2952	5.8600	2.1233	4.9200	408.00	4.6572	5863.00	7.3200	21.8160
Bi Dinar	0.3770	0.6700	0.2400	0.5400	45.00	0.4600	575.00	0.7200	2.1600
CY Pound	1.5015	2.6733	1.1838	2.7903	230.00	2.4000	2985.00	3.7200	1116.00

Metal Prices									
	US\$	DM	£	¥	FF	Sc	DKr	SEK	NT\$
Gold (oz's)	323.7	582.4	214.2	492.0	40400.00	414.0	5140.00	648.0	19680.00
Silver (oz's)	4.78	8.50	3.15	7.10	570.00	5.80	720.00	90.0	2760.00
Platinum (oz's)	428.5	765.0	285.0	640.0	51400.00	524.0	6540.00	824.0	25440.00
Al (3 Months)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cu (3 Months)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Zinc (3 Months)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lead (3 Months)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ni (3 Months)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
	US\$	DM	£	¥	FF	Sc	DKr	SEK	NT\$
USD	5.53	9.90	3.67	8.24	672.00	6.90	864.00	108.0	3264.00
GBP	7.36	13.20	4.85	10.90	884.00	9.00	1116.00	140.0	4260.00
JPY	0.45	0.80	0.30	0.68	55.00	0.56	696.00	88.0	2760.00
DEM	2.60	4.60	1.70	3.80	308.00	3.10	388.00	48.0	1440.00
FRF	3.20	5.70	2.10	4.60	376.00	3.80	476.00	60.0	1800.00
CHF	1.20	2.10	0.78	1.70	136.00	1.36	168.00	21.0	636.00
ITL	6.74	12.10	4.40	9.80	792.00	8.00	992.00	124.0	3724.00

Main Equity Indices									
	US\$	DM	£	¥	FF	Sc	DKr	SEK	NT\$
New York	7742.97	13820.00	5040.00	11332.00	924000.00	9420.00	117200.00	14840.00	45420.00
London	4848.2	8640.00	3120.00	7040.00	572000.00	5840.00	72400.00	9040.00	27600.00
Tokyo	17955.8	31640.00	11440.00	25640.00	2084000.00	21240.00	264400.00	33240.00	100400.00
Paris	2634.07	4720.00	1720.00	3840.00	312000.00	3160.00	39200.00	4840.00	14440.00
Frankfurt	3954.4	7040.00	2540.00	5740.00	464000.00	4720.00	58400.00	7240.00	22040.00

Energy									
	US\$	DM	£	¥	FF	Sc	DKr	SEK	NT\$
Coffee (c/lbs)	197	352.0	128.0	288.0	23400.00	240.0	2980.00	372.0	11280.00
Cocoa (lb/ton)	1674	2960.0	1080.0	2400.0	194400.00	1980.0	24600.00	3080.0	93600.00
Sugar (lb/ton)	321.5	572.0	208.0	464.0	37600.00	384.0	4760.00	596.0	18000.00
Wheat (lb/ton)	141	252.0	92.0	208.0	16800.00	172.0	2120.00	268.0	8160.00
Soya (c/lbs)	22.48	40.4	14.8	32.8	2640.00	27.2	336.00	42.4	1280.00
Tea (lb/ton)	150	268.0	96.0	216.0	17400.00	178.0	2200.00	276.0	8400.00
Barley (lb/ton)	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00
Rice (lb/ton)	120	212.0	76.0	172.0	13920.00	140.0	1720.00	216.0	6600.00

JOD Cross Rates									
	US\$	DM	£	¥	FF	Sc	DKr	SEK	NT\$
US Dollar	0.708	1.260	0.456	1.032	84.00	0.864	1072.00	1.344	4032.00
GB Sterling	1.1385	2.040	0.744	1.664	13600.00	1.392	17200.00	216.0	6600.00
DE Mark	0.3984	0.712	0.256	0.576	4680.00	0.476	5880.00	74.4	2256.00
CHF Franc	0.4633	0.832	0.304	0.688	5560.00	0.568	6960.00	88.0	2688.00
FR Franc	0.1185	0.212	0.076	0.172	1392.00	0.140	1720.00	0.216	660.00
JP Yen	0.584	1.040	0.376	0.848	6880.00	0.704	8720.00	110.4	3360.00
NL Guilder	0.3539	0.632	0.228	0.512	4120.00	0.416	5120.00	64.0	1920.00
IL Lira	0.4076	0.732	0.264	0.592	4760.00	0.488	5960.00	75.2	2280.00

48 Gas pump meas.	6 Moslem prince	S H E D D A W E S D O D O
49 Japanese delicacy	7 Short note	C A V E E T H O S E M I R
50 John Heywood saying	8 Got down	A L E C G L I S T E N I N G
51 To —	9 Prudent	M O N O G R A M D O T T Y
(unanimously)	10 Kug	R U L E S F L I T
60 Israeli — Heights	11 USA note: abbr.	O C T A N E E L A T E D L Y
61 Verdi heroine	12 Jay of TV	P A R T G L E S S R A E
62 "A — to the wise..."	13 Was aware of	R I E R M E L E E S O O A
63 Utopias	21 Reads hastily	R O E B A L E R E V E R
64 Small bird	22 Sanctions	A L D E R M A N G R E E N S
65 Leguminous plant	25 Beginning	Q U A Y S L I D
66 Actress Spacek	26 Painful spots	F O C U S F O A M L E S S
67 Wampum	27 Glimmer poem	O K L A H O M A N S I R O N
	28 Home: abbr.	A R A T D U M A S N A T D
	29 Studied hard	L A M E E W E R Y G L O W
	30 Rubes	
	31 Tennessee — Ford	

© 1997 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Aldair goes Italian

Hisham Yanes Theatre
TEL: 625155

Watch out for the new play

**THE GOVERNMENT
THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE**

*Starring Hisham Yanes
and Amal Dabbas*

...and the

Jordan qualifies to 2nd round of Asian Basketball Championship

By Mohammad Shanti in Riyadh and Aileen Bannayan in Amman

JORDAN'S MEN'S national basketball team beat Indonesia 71-49 to qualify to the second round of the 19th Asian Basketball Championship currently underway in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia with 15 teams taking part.

Jordan is playing in Group D alongside Kazakhstan, Chinese Taipei and Indonesia.

The Kingdom's team had won the first match 66-65 over Kazakhstan. They lost the second match 68-60 to Chinese Taipei and needed to beat Indonesia provided Taipei beat Kazakhstan which they did 62-58 to qualify.

Only the top two teams in each group moved to the second round.

China and Iran qualified from Group A which also included the Philippines and Bahrain.

South Korea and the United Arab Emirates qualified from Group B which also included India and Bangladesh.

Japan and Saudi Arabia qualified from Group C which included Hong Kong.

The competing teams include the top four from the last championship and the hosts who qualified automatically.

There are also two teams from each of the ABC's five regional zones.

Jordan and Iran automatically qualified from the West Asia Zone. Both teams took the two allocated slots following the withdrawal of Iraq and Syria from the pre-qualifiers which were due to be held in Tehran, Iran in August.

Against Indonesia, Jordan could not display a consistent form as they took the lead at first at 19-8 and ended the first half 32-22.

Despite the fact that Indonesia took the lead at 39-38 and 42-41 at the beginning of the second half, Jordan again took command of the score at 47-43 and went on to expand the lead 53-46 and 63-47 before ending the match 71-49.

Scoring came as follows: Ma'an Odeh 22, Husam Lutfi 14, Mohammad Shamali and Yousef Abu Bakr 8, Ramez Hammoudh 9, Fadi Saqqa 7 and Naser Alawneh 4.

Onlookers had criticised the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) whose officials admitted before the team left

Amman that the players were not best prepared for the event in which Jordan last took part in 1995 with the junior team and came in 13th.

"We would have wanted the team to be better prepared in order to improve our standing among Asian teams. However, many reasons prevented more serious training," noted JBF member Sa'eed Shuqum.

Following the team's disappointing sixth place finish at the Pan-Arab Games, a series of setbacks hampered serious preparation mainly the lack of funding which hindered having a training camp abroad of hosting teams in Amman for training matches.

The federation was seriously contemplating withdrawing from participation in Riyadh but later dropped the option as that would entail a \$10,000 penalty by the ABC.

The JBF had earlier in the year cancelled the women's participation in the Asian Championship in Bangkok.

The JBF had to appeal to the Ministry of Culture and Youth to secure funding and the team settled for two friendly matches in Lebanon with the sponsorship of Aramek.

The national team has been training under new coach Imad Al Saeed after the JBF relieved the Ukrainian coach of his duties following the team's disappointing results at the Pan-Arab Games in Beirut.

Following the departure of many players like Zeid Alkhas, Mahmoud Sha'ban, Marwan Saeedi and Naser Bassam, the JBF named Husam Lutfi, Ma'an Odeh, Yousef Abu-Bakr, Naser Alawneh, Ala' Bilbeisi, Faisal Nsour, Fadi Saqqa, Ramez Hammoudh, Mohammad Shamali, Ayman Du'eys, Ashraf Samara and Jan Sahlieh.

Top veteran players like Hilal Barakat, Naser Bushnaq, Marwan Ma'touq and Yousef Zaghloul are missing the lineup.

The national team's best performance was a gold medal win at the 1985 Pan-Arab Games in Morocco. On the Asian level, the under-18 team won the bronze medal at the 1995 Asian Junior Championship enabling the team to become the first Jordanian team to qualify to a World Championship.

Havelange meets Prince Abdullah, concludes visit to Jordan

By Tareq Ayyoub Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The president of the International Football Federation Joao Havelange left Jordan Saturday following a short visit to the Kingdom where he held talks with soccer officials on mutual cooperation.

Mr. Havelange, who arrived here from Beirut, was received upon his arrival by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, president of Jordan Football Association (JFA) and other Jordanian soccer officials.

Prince Abdullah presented a distinguished medal to the world's top soccer official for the "services he extended to world soccer," JFA Vice President Saleh Irsheidat told the Jordan Times.

Dr. Irsheidat said that during the meeting between FIFA and JFA officials, the two sides discussed the prospects of financial and technical assistance from FIFA to Jordanian soccer including the establishment of additional sports installations in the country.

He said that among the proposals the JFA presented to the FIFA official were building a "futsal hall," training facilities, natural grass stadiums and developing programmes for the youth, Olympic and national teams.

Dr. Irsheidat said that other proposals included granting assistance to the Kingdom through training programmes for coaches.

Mr. Havelange told a press conference that FIFA and the JFA decided to nominate a list of Jordanian coaches and other sports technicians to be sent to Europe and developed countries for training courses.

He expressed FIFA's willingness to extend medical, administrative and technical assistance to the JFA.

Mr. Havelange, who left for Saudi Arabia, congratulated Jordan for winning the gold medal in the Pan-Arab Games, which was held in Lebanon last July.

The Brazilian national, the world's top soccer official, who was accompanied by senior FIFA officials during his short visit to Jordan, told reporters that soccer has witnessed great progress in the past two



HRH Prince Abdullah, president of the Jordan Football Association receives FIFA president Joao Havelange upon his arrival to Amman (photo by Yousef Allan)



Jordan Football Association Vice-President Saleh Irsheidat hands Joao Havelange a commemorative shield of the JFA (photo by Yousef Allan)

decades. Mr. Havelange added that he was planning to visit the Palestinian self rule areas to discuss possible FIFA assistance to the Palestinian Soccer Federation, but said he could not cross into the Palestinian territories "due to political reasons."

He added a meeting will be held on Sept. 19 with Palestinian soccer officials in Cairo to discuss future cooperation with FIFA.

Mr. Havelange said that the 24-member FIFA Executive Council held their meeting in Cairo prior to the inauguration of the U-17 World Cup currently underway in the Egyptian capital.

He emphasised that the success of Egypt and Oman in qualifying to the quarter-finals of the U-17 World Cup represents a "push forward to the Arab soccer" adding that the two teams had displayed "unique skills and a high standard in their matches" during the tournament.

Commenting on recent reports that the Argentinean soccer player Diego Maradona's drug test proved that the soccer star had allegedly used cocaine, Mr. Havelange said the issue "concerns the Argentine Soccer Federation."

However, he said, that he feels sad for this news which come for the third time in Maradona's career.

"It is a source of sorrow to hear these reports and the suffering of Maradona," Mr. Havelange said, noting that FIFA will not interfere in this problem.

During his short visit to Jordan, Mr. Havelange was accompanied by FIFA vice-presidents Issa Hayaoui and Jack Warner, FIFA Executive Committee members Abdullah Al Dahal and Mohammed Bin Hammam.

'McAteer is not for sale' Bayern hit the front after 3-0 win

BONN (AFP) — Bayern Munich moved to the top of the German Bundesliga on Saturday, hammering Hertha Berlin 3-0 in the Olympic stadium as early pacesetters Kaiserslautern were without a game.

With Kaiserslautern facing Stuttgart on Sunday, Bayern took their chance, cruising past winless Hertha, who are stranded at the bottom of the table, with goals from Brazilian Giovane Elber, Carsten Jancker and Thomas Strunz.

European club champions Borussia Dortmund, fourth at start of play, were meanwhile held 2-2 at home by sixth-placed Karlsruhe.

Karlsruhe skipper Thomas Haessler, who showed his free-kick prowess again in Germany's midweek World Cup win over Armenia, saved a point with a goal nine minutes from time.

Gilewicz put the visitors ahead on 25 minutes before Heiko Herrlich and Stephane Chapuisat turned things around before Haessler's late interven-

tion.

Dortmund struggled throughout to find their usual fluency as they were missing international trio Matthias Sammer, Andreas Moller and Stefan Reuter.

UEFA Cup holders Schalke, third at start of play, stuttered to an unimpressive goalless draw at promoted Wolfsburg.

Elsewhere, former German international midfielder Stefan Effenberg was on target as Borussia Moenchengladbach came from behind to beat VfL Bochum 2-1.

On Friday, struggling Hamburg claimed a morale-boosting 2-1 home win against Cologne, Bosnian striker Hasan Salihamidzic grabbing a first half brace.

LIVERPOOL (AFP) — Liverpool boss Roy Evans issued an emphatic hands-off warning on Saturday after reports linking unsettled Jason McAteer with a move to Premiership rivals Newcastle.

McAteer has admitted to being unhappy after losing his first team place to Roh Jones, but Evans has told the Republic of Ireland wing-back to fight for his place.

Tottenham were the first club linked with the former Bolton player but now Kenny Dalglish is reported to be interested.

Evans, though, insists that McAteer is staying at Anfield, fuming: "Jason is not for sale. People are trying to make mischief with these stories, but he is staying here."

"He was a regular in our team for two years and he is still a very important member of our squad."

"Neither I or anyone else has said that Jason can go if we get a replacement. We are not looking to replace him because we are not looking to sell him."

"I appreciate the difficulties he has in not being in the team but Jason is determined to fight for his place."

McAteer himself said last week he might have in move on as he would struggle to keep his international place if he was not in the first team.

THE AL HUSSEIN SOCIETY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Wishes to express its gratitude to the

MARRIOTT HOTEL

for sponsoring and organising the

12th Annual Charity Train Ride to Dabha Castle

last Thursday, the 11th of September. Without the enthusiasm and complete commitment of the Marriott staff from top to bottom, the

"desert soiree" would not have been such a huge success.

From the Board and the students of the Al Hussein Society, a heart-felt thanks to all of you.

We also extend our most sincere thanks to JETT bus company for so generously offering the transportation to the railway station as well as the return trip from Dabha and to the numerous other sponsors of the event.

A multinational company in Egypt wishes to recruit an experienced

FINANCE MANAGER

The Finance Manager will report to the General Manager on all functions of accounts department. His primary responsibilities will include the supervision and overall management of the accounts department, preparation and presentation of financial reports to corporate management, administration of payroll, management of company's bank accounts and funds, and general administration.

This is an important managerial position and candidates must have at least 5-10 years experience at a similar level with a multinational company. Candidates must have a sound academic background including a CPA certificate.

Candidates with excellent track record, leadership skills, strong analytical and intellectual personality may send their CV's before September 20, 1997 to:

The Finance Manager
P.O. Box 61022
Dubai, UAE

Nigel Walker Dix
Born 12.09.1947
You did not think moving to Amman would keep your 50th birthday quiet!!
With love the Hawley's in Cyprus

Turino
HOTEL
% Marbella
Cafe Restaurant
Cheers
Elite Cafe

SWEETIEYH 863 944

The diabetic sock by PROMED

Rohner
Switzerland

- NON sliding socks.
- NON elastic construction.
- Natural material (Cotton, Wool).

Distributed by:

FMS
Nobles Drug Stores
Tel.: 863760 P.O. Box 840102 Amman 11184 Jordan

WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR STYLE OF LIFE DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR SHOES

ديكروس DELCROS
DIABETIC SHOES

STEP INTO THE WORLD OF SAFETY

- Extra wide shoes to contain toes freely.
- Extra deep shoes to avoid irritation and stress by containing suitable removable socks and insoles.
- Multilayered special & natural materials to protect from shocks and pressure and to provide air circulation & odorless atmosphere.
- No seams, rough surfaces or wrinkled lining inside the shoes to eliminate any possibilities of friction.

Distributed by:

FMS
Nobles Drug Stores
Tel.: 863760 P.O. Box 840102 Amman 11184 Jordan

Millions mourn 'Saint of the Gutters' as she is laid to rest

(Continued from page 1)

thousands who lined the route to the stadium could not be held back.

Less than half-way through the journey to Netaji Stadium, protocol broke down and the crowds surged onto tree-lined Jawaharlal Nehru Road, and ran alongside the coffin.

In an unprecedented tribute by her adopted homeland, the coffin was carried on the same gun carriage that bore the body of slain Indian independence hero Mahatma Gandhi, and flags flew half-mast throughout the nation.

Thousands of children were among the Hindus, Muslims, Jains, Christians and Sikhs who lined the funeral cortege route. They threw flowers and held up photographs, many of them cut out of newspapers.

Monsoon rains which had held off for the first part of the funeral, drenched the crowds waiting outside the indoor stadium, but failed to drive them off the streets for the last rain-soaked voyage to the Mother House.

Rumki Biswas, a Hindu, one of the scores who managed to break through, said she touched Mother Teresa's face before she was pushed away by soldiers.

"I couldn't pay my regards during the last week. I came all the way

from Pondicherry [in the south]. She is the greatest soul of our period."

A procession of royalty and heads of state briefly reclaimed her from the people, filing one by one to pay tribute in the almost three-hour ceremony.

Among them were Her Majesty Queen Noor and Queen Fabiola of Belgium, U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton, Italy's President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, the Duchess of Kent representing Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings and Bernadette Chirac, wife of French President Jacques Chirac.

Mother Teresa's successor Sister Nirmala, who took over as Superior-General in March, said the order would follow in her footsteps.

"Here in Calcutta as well as in all parts of the world, she must be looking at us from heaven and smiling," Sister Nirmala said.

"Thank God for the joy she brought for Calcutta, especially the poor and the down-trodden," said Henry D'Souza, Archbishop of Calcutta.

But many ordinary people complained that they had been excluded.

"The people closest to her are not being allowed to take part. I don't know who this Hillary Clinton is," said Anugrah Tiwari, a 42-year-old blind beggar from the industrial town Durgapur about 200 kilo-



A crowd watch from a rooftop Saturday a Guard of Honour carrying Mother Teresa's body to the Missionaries of Charity (AFP photo)

metres from Calcutta. The Missionaries of Charity, the order she founded in 1950, had asked for half of the 12,000 seats in the Netaji Stadium where a

mass was held for Mother Teresa on Saturday to be reserved for the people she championed.

But volunteer helpers in the stadium said the num-



Her Majesty Queen Noor and Belgium's Queen Fabiola attend the state funeral service for Mother Teresa Saturday (Reuters photo)



Cardinal Angelo Sodano of the Vatican, sprinkles holy water on Mother Teresa's body during the state funeral ceremony (Reuters photo)

ber was far less.

Deepa Gupta and Neha Jain, two high school student volunteers, said: "We saw very few poor people. There should have been

more."

As the sun set, and life began returning to normal in the streets of Calcutta, Hillary Clinton slipped into one of Mother



An honour guard line as the body of Mother Teresa is carried into the entrance of the Mother House, for a private burial Saturday (Reuters photo)

Teresa's orphanages and then into the Mother House where she prayed "with deep sadness" near the tomb with the nuns. She emerged clutching

the tiny metal cross that Mother Teresa's nuns wear as an identifying badge on their saris, saying the Nobel Peace laureate's work must be continued.

Palestinian medical supplies running down fast — PNA

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) said Saturday it had used up over half its supply of medicines and faces difficulties buying more due to Israeli sanctions on self-rule areas after a string of bombings.

"We have consumed 55 per cent of our strategic supplies of medications, which in total is sufficient for 90 days," said Health Minister Riyadh Zaun, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

"We face a number of problems in terms of supplying medicines. One is that we do not have enough money to buy new ones and we are already three

months behind in paying bills to medical companies," Mr. Zaun said.

"There is also difficulty in distributing medicines because of the Israeli closure," he said.

Israel has refused to hand over some \$95 million in tax money it collected for the PNA as part of a series of sanctions imposed after the Jerusalem bombing in July.

It also imposed a ban on Palestinians entering Israel. After a second bombing on Sept. 4 it reimposed an internal closure inside the West Bank which prevents movement between its towns and villages.

"The Israeli army today prevented a shipment of

medicines from reaching the towns of Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarem [in the northern West Bank], and they had to be returned to the storehouse in Ramallah," Mr. Zaun said.

He said that due to Israeli withholding of funds to the PNA, it had been unable to pay bills for oxygen supplies, medicines, ambulance costs and X-ray equipment.

But the army insists it has given orders for medicines and emergency cases to be allowed through its checkpoints in the West Bank.

Israel said the sanctions are aimed at forcing the PNA to crack down on Islamic militants to conduct the bomb attacks.

Iran releases U.S. national from jail

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has released a U.S. national arrested earlier this year for allegedly entering the country, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported Saturday.

Joseph Morris had been sentenced to two years in prison, IRNA said, citing judicial officials, adding that he is soon to be deported.

Tehran announced in June that an American had been arrested several months before but it did not reveal his identity or the date or place he was arrested.

A U.S. judicial source said at the time that the arrested man was an African-American Muslim who had entered Iran through the Pakistani border.

Saturday's statement was also the first indication that the man had been sentenced.

Tehran and Washington broke diplomatic ties after the 1979 Islamic revolution which toppled the pro-American shah, and the two countries have been at odds ever since.

The U.S. represented in Tehran by the Swiss embassy, routinely advises its nationals to avoid travel in Iran.

The U.S. State Department had urged the Swiss mission to help secure his release and Iran said in June it had allowed Morris to meet Swiss diplomats.

The authorities here said at the time that the black Muslim was the only American held in the Islamic Republic, although the U.S. State Department believes several U.S. citizens, mostly with dual nationality, are detained here.

In 1992, Iran said it had arrested a U.S. national, Milton Meyer, on spying charges. The American, whose fate is unknown, was accused of having contacts with foreign agents and of engaging in illegal business in Iran. Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran and the U.S. have remained at daggers drawn and have waged a fierce war of words. The new government of President Mohammad Khatami has pledged to help ease tension with other countries and rhetoric against the U.S. "Great Satan," has toned down.

Bosnian polls held amid boycotts, reports of fraud, early morning 'terror' explosions

Combined agency dispatches

BOSNIA'S CROATS, Muslims and Serbs cast their ballots Saturday in strongly contested municipal elections marked by boycotts and fraud incidents but devoid of the major violence feared by international officials.

"This is a very happy day for democracy and a good step forward for the country," said Bosnia's High Representative Carlos Westendorp, in charge of implementing civilian aspects of the 1995 Dayton peace accords that ended the 43-month war.

David Foley, spokesman for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which organised the elections, said that despite technical and procedural problems, the two-day polls were overall going according to plan.

"In short, things are going even better than we ever dared to hope and with our fingers crossed, we will hope that that sort of environment continues until the polls close at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow evening."

The polls, however, got off to a shaky start in the divided southern town of Mostar, where most polling stations in the Muslim part of the city remained shut for much of the day because of squabbling over a central zone.

An explosion rocked the capital Sarajevo only hours before polling stations opened across the country at 7 a.m., underscoring tensions surrounding the vote.

The blast shattered windows in the offices of Bosnia's main Croat political party, the nationalist Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), in the city centre. There were no injuries.

International police reported two other explosions overnight. A grenade was fired at a house in the Travnik area in the Muslim-Croat federation and a bomb detonated near a polling station in the central Doboj region.

Western governments sponsoring the Bosnian peace agreement have spent millions of dollars and months of planning on the complex elections which are seen as crucial to keeping the troubled

peace process alive.

But by late afternoon Robert Frowick, head of the OSCE mission in Bosnia, said the Muslim officials had lifted their boycott after the Croats agreed to amendments on the reunification of the city.

Meanwhile, in the key northern town of Brcko, which is under Serb control, the OSCE shut down a polling station after an apparent attempt at vote-rigging.

Mr. Frowick said that refugees at the station who should have been casting their vote for other parts of Bosnia were reportedly being given ballot papers for Brcko instead.

"I am appealing to local authorities that when we reopen that station tomorrow, that people will do what is right and play by the rules," Mr. Frowick said, adding that local authorities "had better be careful" as the city was still under arbitration.

There were also reports of voters being harassed by Serb police in one region and buses transporting refugee voters stoned south of Mostar.

In addition, four polling stations did not open in Zepce, a central region controlled by the nationalist Bosnian Croat HDZ party.

Mr. Foley said local Croat staff supposed to man these stations did not

turn up and had the keys.

Croat officials were also accused of trying to scuttle the vote in the western town of Drvar where they claimed language was posing a problem with voters.

"They are claiming that they can't read Cyrillic and that [Serb] voters can't read Latinic [Roman] script," Foley said.

The elections will determine the ethnic and political make-up of local government in 136 municipalities divided almost equally between the Serb Statelet and the Muslim-Croat federation that make up Bosnia.

They are considered a crucial step in the Bosnia peace process as they should pave the way for hundreds of thousands of refugees to return to their former homes.

The elections rules allow refugees to vote in their former hometown or in their new place of residence, either in person or by absentee ballot. The outcome of the vote is keenly awaited as it will determine who will rule in key areas currently dominated by those who usurped power during the war.

Of the 2.5 million people registered to vote in what are billed the most complex elections in history, some 35,000 are expected to cross the boundary lines marking the division

between the Muslim-Croat federation and the Serb entity.

"I want to see my home again," said Suhra Malic, a refugee from the eastern town of Srebrenica, overrun by the Serbs in July 1995.

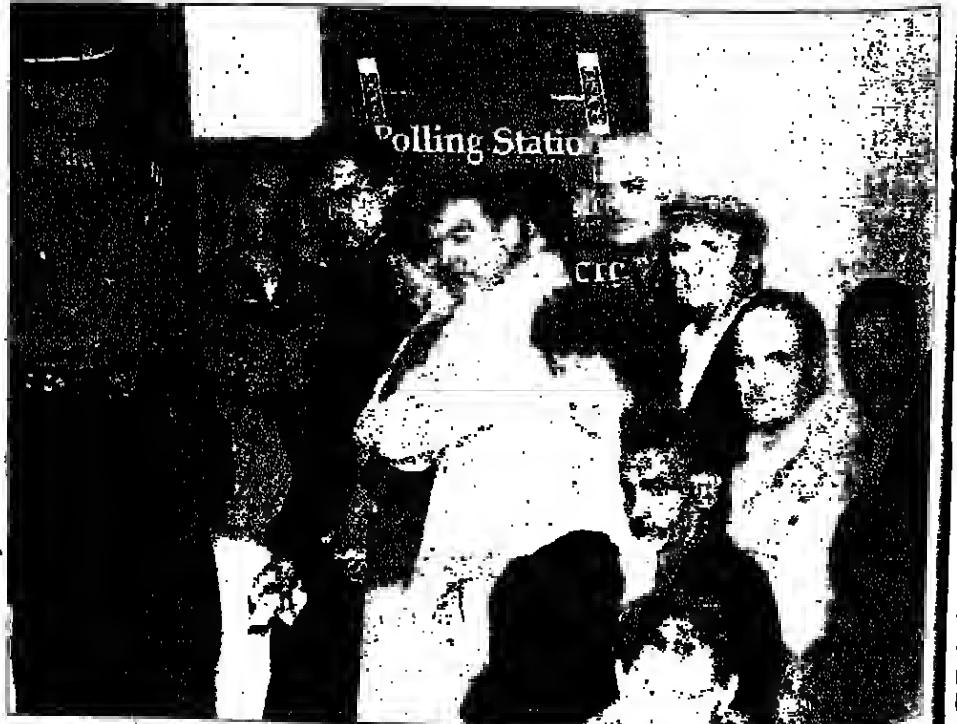
"This is not my land, this is not my land, this is not my sky."

Several Serbs interviewed outside a polling station in Dobrinja, a Sarajevo suburb split between Muslims and Serbs, said they hoped the elections would help seal the divisions between the country's Croats, Muslims and Serbs.

"It has been proven that we cannot live together by the several wars we've had with them so far," said Miladin, a 41-year-old taxi driver.

The NATO-led Force (SFOR) deployed 10,000 troops throughout the country to ensure voters' security and prevent any outbreak of violence.

In order to prevent any tampering with the ballot boxes, international supervisors are stationed at each of the 2,229 polling stations throughout the country, and hundreds of additional observers are monitoring the polls. Of the 136 municipalities the three communities are vying for, 75 of them are in the federation and 61 in the Serb entity.



A Bosnian Croat policeman guards Serb refugee voters as they queue to vote in a polling station. Under the Dayton agreement Drvar belongs within the Croatian entity but 3,000 Serb refugees from Drvar now living in Banja Luka are expected to vote in their hometown (Reuters photo)

Algerian Islamist detained in U.S. requests political asylum

WASHINGTON (AFP) — An Algerian Islamist leader detained in the United States has asked the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees for political prisoner status and to be given asylum, his lawyer told AFP Friday.

Anwar Haddam — who has been in jail in Virginia since December last year when an application for political asylum in the United States was turned down — made the request in a letter to the UNHCR, lawyer Malek Kiblan said.

"I call on the UNHCR to help me obtain from the U.S. government the status of political prisoner to eliminate this appearance of criminality and therefore to be able to find a third and safe country for asylum," Mr. Haddam wrote.

Mr. Haddam — whose lawyer says he could still get political asylum in the United

States on appeal — also requested asylum for his wife and four children of whom three are "U.S. born citizens."

"My life is in continuous danger because of my detention with convicted criminals," he wrote, adding "I was denied my rights to a religious diet as well as to have access to my own books."

Mr. Haddam used to be considered a radical in the FIS, and close to the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), Algeria's most extreme Islamic movement which is blamed for much of the recent bloodshed in the country.

But he has recently put some distance between himself and the GIA after the movement killed two high-ranking Muslim officials to whom Mr. Haddam was close.

Algiers, which says Mr. Haddam is a terrorist, has often protested his presence in the United States.

The FIS was outlawed in

NASA sets date for visit to Mir

CAPE CANAVERAL (R)

The space shuttle Atlantis is scheduled to blast off on a mission to Mir on Sept. 25 to pick up NASA astronaut Michael Smith and drop off his replacement, the U.S. space agency said Friday.

NASA managers, meeting at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, unanimously cleared the shuttle for launch, space agency spokesman Bruce

Buckingham said.

Atlantis was to blast off at 02:34 GMT on Sept. 26 and link up with the troubled Russian space station two days later.

Atlantis will collect British-born astronaut Michael Foale and drop off his replacement David Wolf for a four-month stay. The shuttle will also deliver about 3,175-kilogramme of supplies and repair gear to the orbiting outpost.

The shuttle's crew of seven includes Russian cosmonaut Vladimir Titov and veteran French astronaut Jean-Loup Chretien.

Titov and American astronaut Scott Parazynski will make a space walk from Atlantis to retrieve some U.S. experiments from the exterior of Mir. It will be the first time a non-American has made a spacewalk from the shuttle.